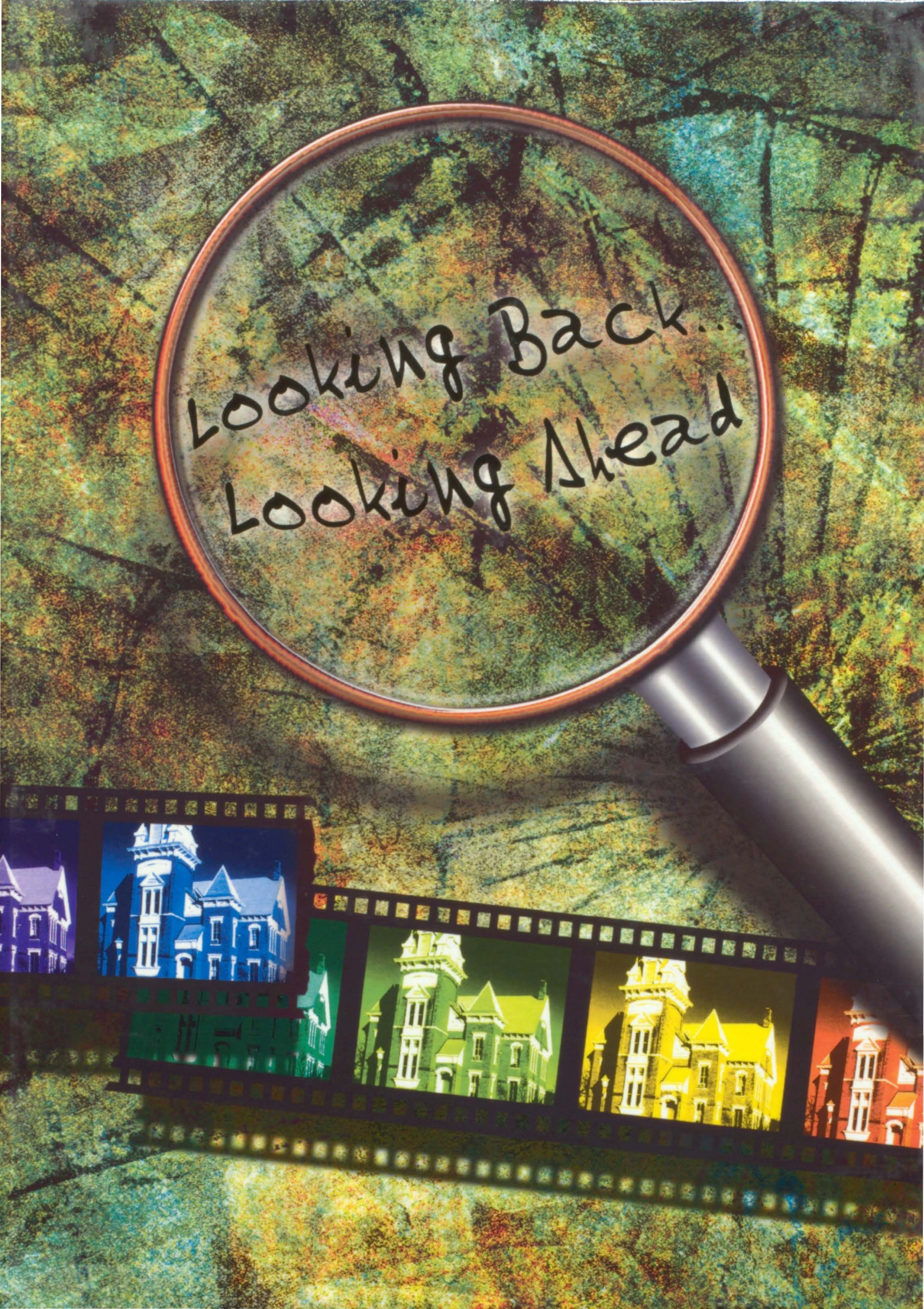

Looking Back...
Looking Ahead

Looking Back . . .

Left: Hanging out in the gym during Spiritual Emphasis Day, **Jessica Dexter** laughs with **Stephany Krieger**. The short breaks between sessions allowed time for students to relax.

The *Reflector 2009* Volume 50
Nebraska Christian Schools
1847 Inskip Avenue
Central City, NE 68826
(308) 946-3836
Fax: (308) 946-3837
nebraskachristian.org
Enrollment: P-6: 67
7-12: 113

Opening
Looking Back. . .
Pages 2-3

People and Academics
Gaining Perspective
Pages 4-27

Student Life
Recording Memories
Pages 28-35

Sports
Reflecting Character
Pages 36-53

Activities
Magnifying the Lord
Pages 54-67

Ads
Aiding Success
Pages 68-71

Index
Seeking Friendships
Pages 72-73

Closing
. . .Looking Ahead
Pages 74-75

Above: Flipping through her physical science book, **Ashley Kenny** searches for a term. To vary the routine, physical science students created PowerPoint presentations about elements.

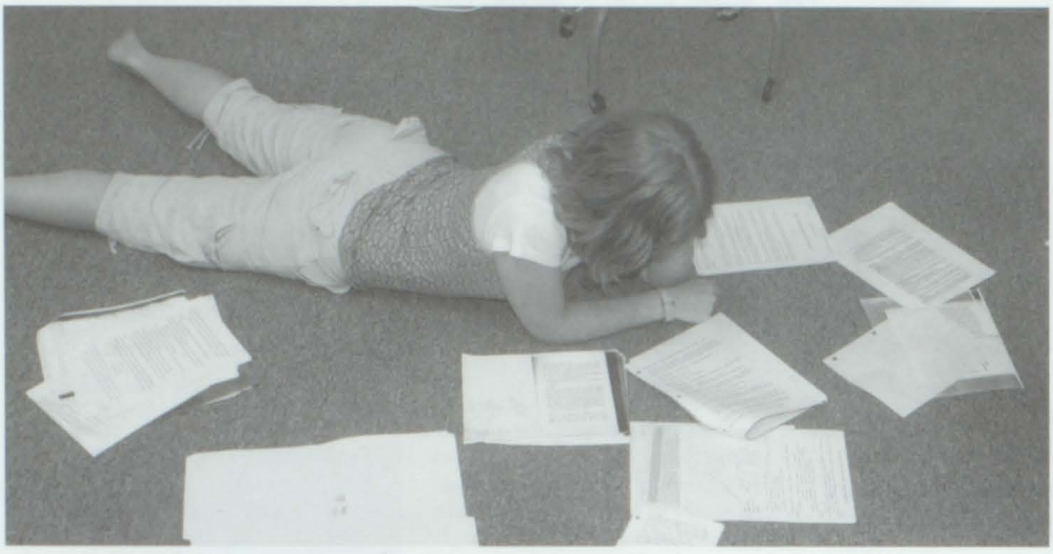
Above: Carefully gripping his balloon-powered car, **Alex Newby** attempts to attach another colorful element. The physics class thoroughly enjoyed building cars rather than taking a test.

Above: **Caleb Urban** attempts to grab the clothespins clipped to **Michelle Toukan**'s shirt. In the afternoon of the fall Spiritual Emphasis Day, students played competitive games.

Above: While taking a break in the midst of decorating the gym building for Homecoming, **Jae Kim** signs his name on **Elizabeth Griess**'s volleyball shirt. All of the senior volleyball players bought neon-colored shirts to wear to the football game, and they had the football players sign them.

. . . Looking Ahead

Below: **Abbie Krug**, an avid speech student, intently reads speech scripts in an attempt to pick out pieces for the upcoming season. Last year, Krug began as a novice, excelled throughout the season, and advanced to varsity for the last few meets.



Looking Back. . .

Capturing the essence of unforgettable moments, photographic filmstrips preserve memories for a lifetime. These precious pictures spur reminiscent minds to remember their thoughts and feelings surrounding the event of the picture. Similarly, the goal of the yearbook is to preserve happenings and to evoke fond memories. With the passing of time and technological advancements, filmstrips have changed from plain black-and-white to full color. Even with the change in appearance, though, the ultimate goal of filmstrips remains the same — to preserve memories. Likewise, Nebraska Christian's campus has drastically changed since the inception of the school 50 years ago. The goal of the school — building lives for eternity — remains the same.

Forlornly, Nebraska Central College's rustic Administration Building towered above the ground in a helpless postion, in dire need of repair, during the summer of 1959. Edgar Whiteman, the college's president, had just died, and with him, the vision of the school vanished as well. Three individuals from the Scotia area, Harry Hermsmeyer, Orvil Hamer, and Joyce Grantham, looked beyond the beggarly condition of the school and, instead, believed upon the Lord to provide the resources for a desperately-needed Christian high school. The Lord answered the intercedings of these faithful men, and Nebraska Christian High School opened in the fall of 1959.

While the Administration Building, a historical fixture of the school, still towers above the expanse of Nebraska Christian, new buildings and campus improvements add splashes of color to the previously run-down campus. Ultimately, the new improvements did not change the mission of the school — inflencing lives for eternity.

–Cheri Garwood

Right: **Braden Swanson** relishes the opportunity to wakeboard at the Senior Retreat. The speaker for the retreat, **Pat Abendroth**, pastor of Omaha Bible Church, graciously brought his wakeboarding boat to McHargue's Lake for the afternoon.

Above: Meticulously, **Johnny Smith** uses an exacto knife to cut holes into a piece of leather. Smith made a wallet in fifth hour shop class.

Above: **Danielle Thiessen** and **Cailyn Ostrand** enjoy looking at pictures of past graduates at the Harvest Festival. This year's Harvest Festival celebrated the 50th year of the school.

Above: **Mrs. Dee Flynn** instructs **Willy Shih** as he works on a science Gizmo. Flynn graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in May with a degree in science education and began teaching at NC in August.

Above: Relaxing in the shade, **John Zhang** gives **Nathan Ritta** a piggyback ride. After working up a sweat playing games at Spiritual Emphasis Day, Zhang and Ritta enjoyed the break and the time spent with friends.

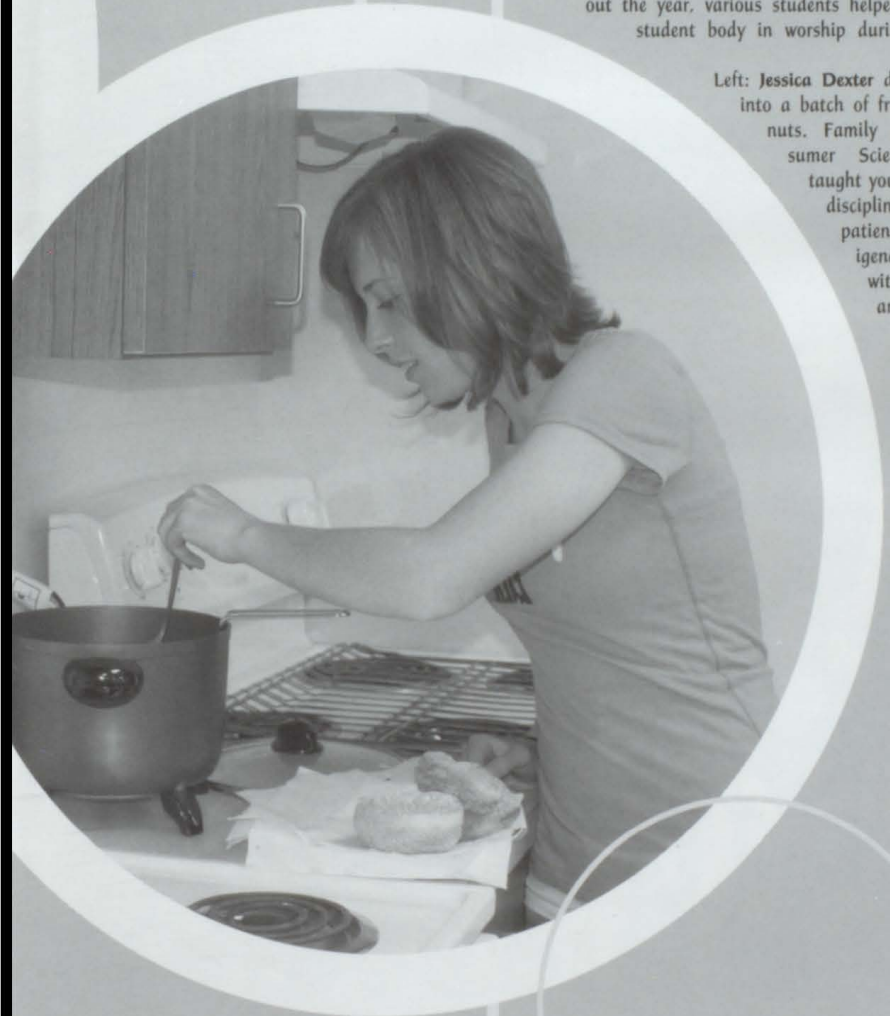
Gaining Perspective

Top: Chuckling while walking down the sidewalk, **Stephany Krieger** and **Anna Faeh** head toward their next class. Krieger's pink feather boa, hoop earrings, and sunglasses were her interpretation of fifties attire for Spirit Week.

Center: Leaning against the gym building, **Janelle Bailey** reads her Bible. During the fall Spiritual Emphasis Day, an allotted time was set aside for students to have personal devotions.

Top right: Working on homework, **Kiel Hansen** and **Audra Faeh** utilize the computers in the yearbook room. Students took advantage of the additional computers in classrooms to work on college classes, research papers, and science Gizmos.

Above: Embracing their talents, **Alex Newby**, **Nathan Ritta**, and **Anne Tran** glorify the Lord with their singing. Throughout the year, various students helped lead the student body in worship during chapel.



Left: **Jessica Dexter** dips a fork into a batch of fried doughnuts. Family and Consumer Science class taught young women disciplines such as patience and diligence, along with cooking and sewing.

From year to year, students step out of the halls of Nebraska Christian and onto the road of their future. Since its doors opened in 1959, NC's enrollment has risen and fallen, staff members have come and gone, and buildings have been razed and built. The focus, however, has remained the same: educating young men and women from a biblical perspective. Classes have been built on classic, strong curriculum, such as Bible, English, math, history, and science. Yet, more unique classes have been added to prepare students for their road ahead, such as Men of Vision and Family and Consumer Science, which taught young men and women biblical principles for living their lives.

-Shannon Rodehorst

SEN

Lasting Friendships

The class of 2009…Nebraska Christian's fiftieth graduating class. The class of 2009 will be remembered for its significant marking of time in Nebraska Christian's existence. Time also brought changes in the lives of the senior class members. **Elizabeth Griess** said, "We have matured a lot since freshman year."

As a result of growing and changing, the senior students bonded and grew closer together. When freshman year began, the class did not know each other very well due to the large number of new students. The freshman trip to Washington, D.C., proved to be a turning point, and friendships developed. According to **Jessica Bailey**, "The freshman trip was a chance to get to know one another, and the senior trip was a chance to commemorate how close we had become since that first trip." Through grueling homework assignments, sports practices, junior class concessions, and the college search process, students set aside differences and learned to rely on one another. Ultimately, Nebraska Christian provided a nurturing environment where Christlike friendships thrived.

–Cheri Garwood

Below: Front to back, left to right; Row 1: Karrah Miller, Jessica Bailey, Stephanie Ritta, Cheri Garwood, Shinri Uemura, Danielle Richards, Elizabeth Griess, Lacy Tonniges, Audra Faeh, Rebecca Woods, Kensy Kaelin. Row 2: Kenneth Go, Kris Hoehn, Cas Luong, Darren Holzinger. Row 3: Braden Swanson, Kiel Hansen, Zach Troester, Wesley Kembel, Casey Rose, Jae Kim, Ray Johnson, Ben Thiessen, Caleb Coleman, An Tran, Chansoo Park. (Not pictured: Jessica Dexter, Emily Murphy.)

SENIORS

class of 2009

Above left: Unable to contain their grins, **Karrah Miller** and **Lacy Tonniges** march into the gym for their graduation ceremony. The class of 2009 was the 50th to graduate from Nebraska Christian.

Above right: Standing outside an abortion mill in downtown Dallas, **Caleb Coleman** reads God's Word aloud for passersby to hear. Other students either read aloud, held signs, or sang worship songs while they peacefully stood for the sanctity of life.

Left: Swinging his crutch in the air, **Darren Holzinger** energetically informs his audience of the benefits of having a broken foot. Holzinger used his broken foot to his advantage in his entertainment speech, which placed second at the Goldenrod Conference Meet.

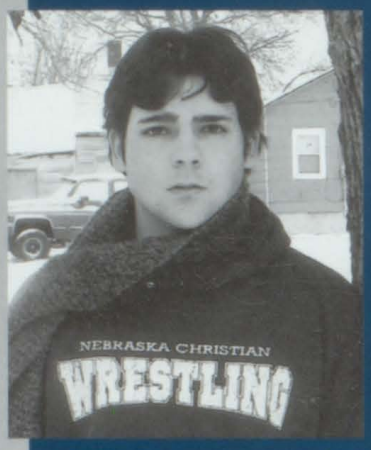
Jessica Ilene Bailey

Favorite Verse:
Isaiah 12:2
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Speech meets

Cheri Nicole Garwood

Favorite Verse:
Psalm 46:10
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Mrs. Uhler's "storytimes" and drinking cappuccino in Accounting

Caleb James Coleman



Favorite Verses:
Psalm 39
Years at NC: 5
Favorite Memory:
Wrestling season

Koung Hwan (Kenneth) Go

Favorite Verse:
John 13:34
Years at NC: 2
Favorite Memory:
International trips

Jessica LaRae Dexter

Favorite Verses:
Matthew 7:13–14
Years at NC: 1
Favorite Memory:
Being friends with the internationals

Elizabeth Anne Griess

Favorite Verse:
Psalm 46:10
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Home volleyball games

Audra Jean Faeh

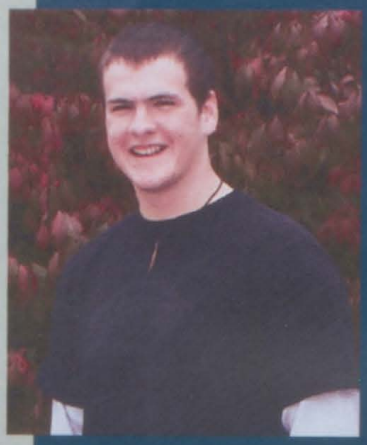
Favorite Verse:
2 Corinthians 12:9
Years at NC: 5
Favorite Memory:
Senior year of volleyball

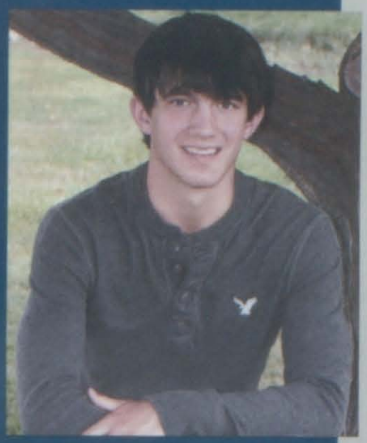
Kiel Dean Hansen

Favorite Verse:
Zephaniah 3:17
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Beating the guy from Fillmore Central at the Ham-Mer speech meet junior year

Kore Lee Kristopher Hoehn

Favorite Verse:
Isaiah 12:2
Years at NC: 6
Favorite Memory:
Long spiritual discussions with Mr. Cronk and other NC staff members





Wesley Randal Kembel

Favorite Verses:
James 4:7–8
Years at NC: 5
Favorite Memory:
Running across the tops of the desks sophomore year when Mrs. Moody wasn't in the room

Darren Joseph Holzinger

Favorite Verse:
Jeremiah 29:11
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Chillaxin' in the track tent

Jae-Hyun Kim

Favorite Verses:
Philippians 4:6–7
Years at NC: 2
Favorite Memory:
Washington D.C. trip

Raymond Russell Johnson

Favorite Verse:
Philippians 4:13
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Getting sixth at State Wrestling senior year

Trung Anh (Cas) Luong

Favorite Verse:
Proverbs 11:7
Years at NC: 1
Favorite Memory:
Living in the dorm

Kensy Lynn Kaelin

Favorite Verses:
1 Peter 3:3–4
Years at NC: 2
Favorite Memory:
Building friendships with classmates on the Senior Trip

Karrah Nicole Miller

Favorite Verses:
Proverbs 3:5–6
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Volleyball games

Emily Kristine Murphy

Favorite Verse:
Galatians 2:20
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Golfing in P.E. freshman year while dressed as a Powerpuff Girl

Casey Lee Rose

Favorite Verses:
Proverbs 3:5–6
Years at NC: 3 1/2
Favorite Memory:
Ending with a win senior year of football

Chansoo Park

Favorite Verse:
John 3:16
Years at NC: 2
Favorite Memory:
The Kansas City and Branson, Missouri, international trips

Braden Douglas Swanson

Favorite Verses:
Ephesians 2:8–9
Years at NC: 6
Favorite Memory:
During sophomore year, going to Bill Griepenstroh's house for Halo 2 parties after football games

Danielle Renee Richards

Favorite Verses:
Psalm 139:8–10
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Going to football games after volleyball games

Benjamin Ty Thiessen

Favorite Verses:
James 1:2–3
Years at NC: 3
Favorite Memory:
Playing speedball in weightlifting class

Stephanie Joy Ritta

Favorite Verses:
Romans 8:38–39
Years at NC: 13
Favorite Memory:
Listening to Miss Smith read in the afternoons in the 5th and 6th grades.

Lacy Rae Tonniges

Favorite Verses:
1 Corinthians 10:12–13
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Freshman year basketball

An Tuan Tran

Favorite Verses:
Proverbs 1:7–8
Years at NC: 1 1/2
Favorite Memory:
Playing classical guitar with Mrs. Ritta and the symphony at the Festival of Lessons & Carols

Rebecca Ann Woods

Favorite Verses:
2 Corinthians 12:9–10
Years at NC: 4
Favorite Memory:
Eating popsicles after cross country practice

An (Anne) Thuy Viet Tran

Favorite Verses:
1 Corinthians 10:12–13
Years at NC: 1
Favorite Memory:
Attending the Festival of Lessons & Carols

Class Verse:
Philippians 3:13–14
"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Class Colors:
Navy and Silver

Class Flower: Rose

Class Motto: "Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live."
–Jonathan Edwards

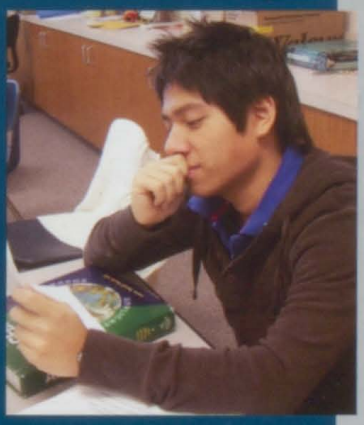
Zachary Adam Troester

Favorite Verses:
Proverbs 3:5–6
Years at NC: 5
Favorite Memory:
Playing speedball on warm days in Mr. Ostrand's weight-lifting class

Right: *Senior Class Officers*, left to right; President Cheri Garwood, Secretary Elizabeth Griess, Vice President Danielle Richards, Treasurer Ben Thiessen.

Shinri Uemura

Favorite Verse:
Deuteronomy 5:8
Years at NC: 2
Favorite Memory:
The Washington, D.C., and international trips



Right: Studying diligently for Algebra II, An Tuan prepares for an upcoming test. Tuan took many difficult classes, such as American Government and English III, in his second year at Nebraska Christian.

Below: Giggling at Six Flags, Jessica Bailey, Kensy Kaelin, and Rebecca Woods pose for the camera. Visiting Six Flags was a great way to finish a memorable senior trip.

Leading the Way

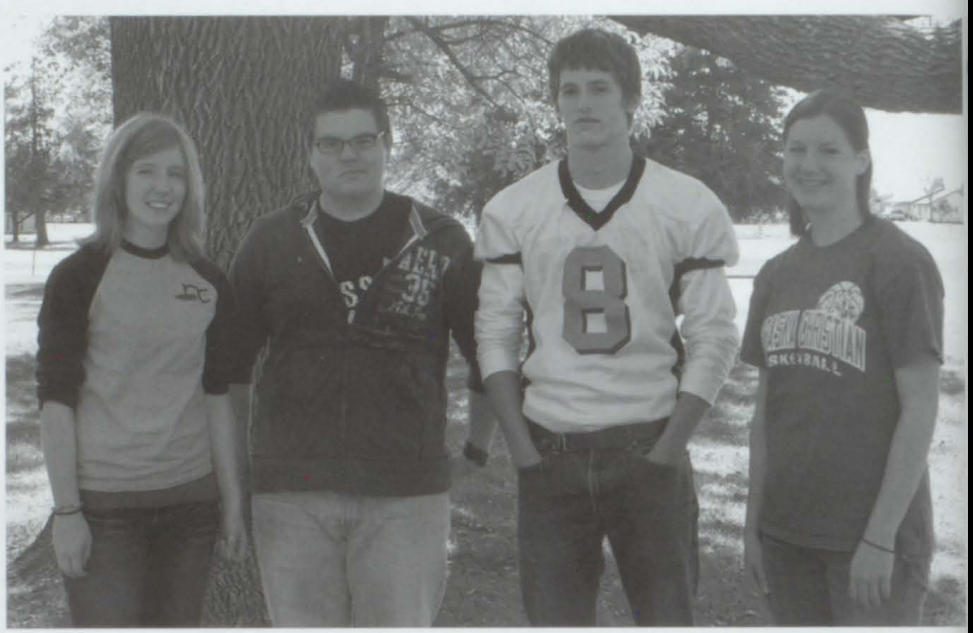
"I think I decorate very well."
–David Kim

The aroma of popcorn, the clanking of coins, and the anticipation of standardized tests were all associated with the junior class. Juniors labored vigorously all year, which caused them to develop lasting leadership skills. To become strong leaders, they first needed a firm grasp of the Bible and biblical truth. **Thayer Dungan** stated, "A great leader is one who leads as God leads. God commands us all to be leaders in sharing the gospel and to be fearless when preaching the word."

Several juniors in the class showed strong leadership skills. **Abbie Krug** served as class president because of her ability to lead biblically. Krug organized the junior class in concessions, and she represented the class on the student council. However, the president was not the only leader among the juniors; everyone in the class led in his or her own way. **Johnny Chang** said, "I feel I am a leader in math because I help many students fully understand the assignments." A leader is someone who is in charge or in command of others, and based on the actions of the junior class, they were truly a group prepared to lead.

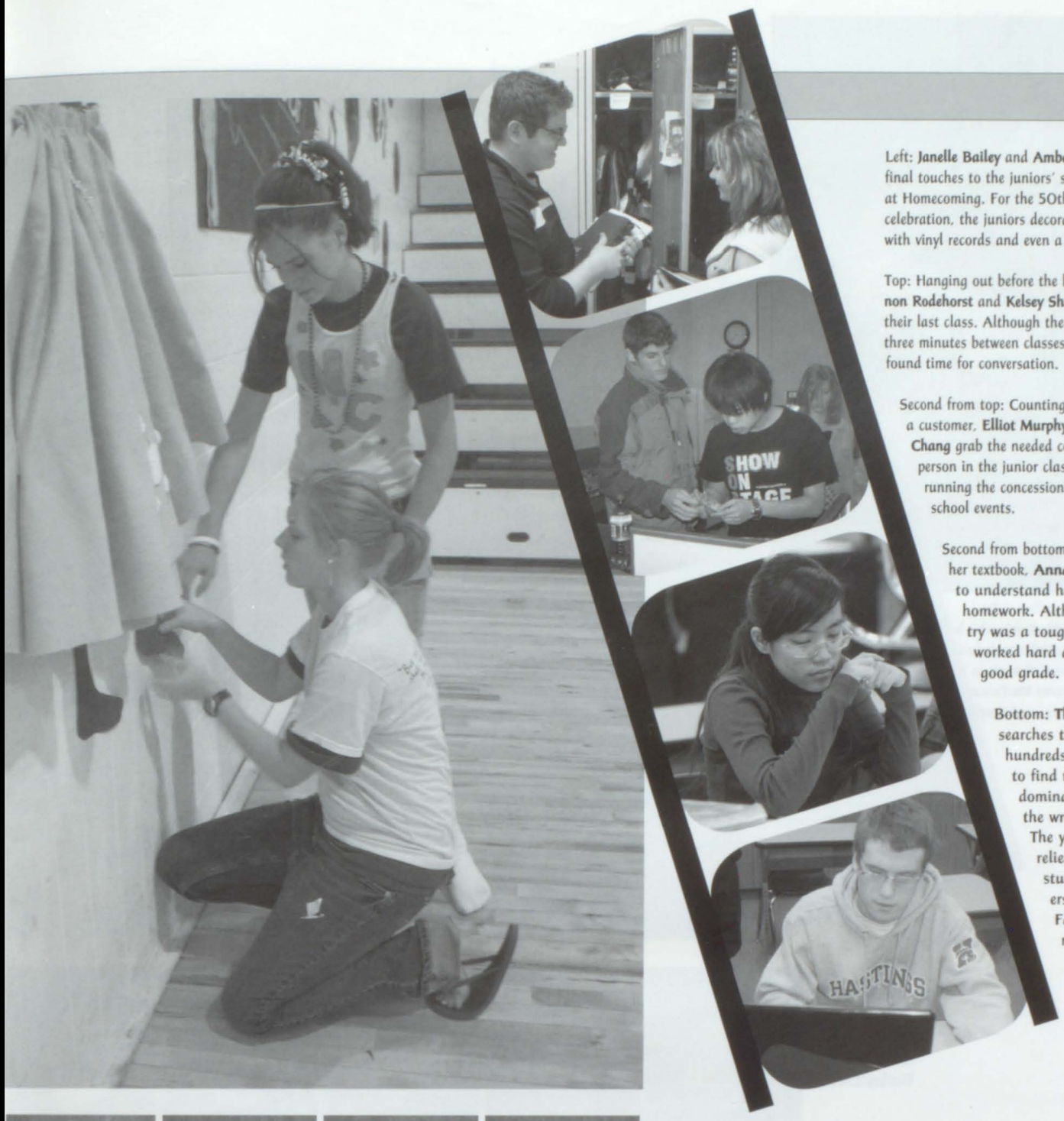
–Shannon Rodehorst

Right: *Junior Class Officers*, left to right: President Abbie Krug, Vice President Shannon Rodehorst, Secretary Elliot Murphy, and Treasurer Janae Landrigan.



Janelle Bailey
Johnny Chang
Arisa Chon
Anna Dinh
Thayer Dungan

David Kim
Abbie Krug
Janae Landrigan
Fred Lee
Elliot Murphy



Left: **Janelle Bailey** and **Amber Rainbolt** add final touches to the juniors' side of the gym at Homecoming. For the 50th Anniversary celebration, the juniors decorated their area with vinyl records and even a poodle skirt!

Top: Hanging out before the bell rings, **Shannon Rodehorst** and **Kelsey Shepherd** discuss their last class. Although there were only three minutes between classes, students still found time for conversation.

Second from top: Counting change for a customer, **Elliot Murphy** and **Johnny Chang** grab the needed coins. Every person in the junior class assisted in running the concession stand during school events.

Second from bottom: Studying her textbook, **Anna Dinh** tries to understand her chemistry homework. Although chemistry was a tough class, Dinh worked hard and earned a good grade.

Bottom: **Thayer Dungan** searches through hundreds of photos to find the perfect dominant photo for the wrestling page. The yearbook staff relied on parents, students, teachers, and even Facebook for many of the photos they used.

Alex Newby
Rebekah Poeffel
Amber Rainbolt
Adam Richardson

Shannon Rodehorst
Kelsey Shepherd
Jennifer Smith
Caleb Urban

Gaining Responsibility

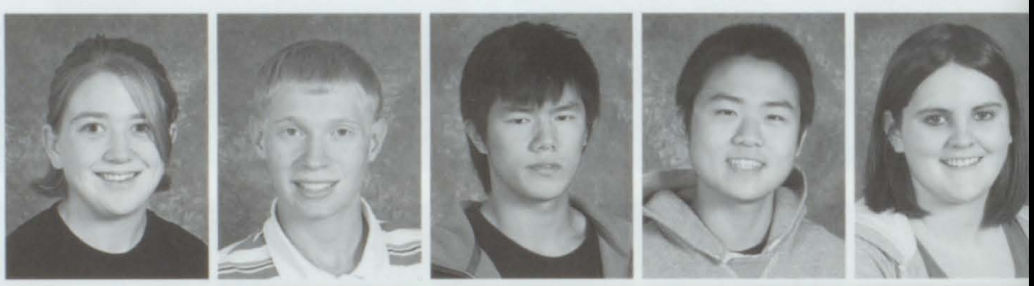
"I enjoyed making the clothes!"
–Sable Homolka

The sophomore class found their second year of high school to be different than freshman year. **Sarah Armatys** commented, "I think one of the best changes of this year is that we get to drive, and one of the bad ones is that we have more work." Sophomore year is unusual because students are not on "top," yet they still have some influence on the younger grades.

As sophomores, students faced new challenges and responsibilities, such as increasing amounts of homework and varying electives. Chemistry, a junior class, was one of the electives sophomores were allowed to take if it fit into their schedules. **Nathan Ritta** said, "I really enjoyed physical science last year, and I wanted a class that would build on what I had previously learned. I knew if I waited a year, I would probably forget a lot, so I decided chemistry was worth it." Math is another subject that sophomores have more freedom with than last year. Although most sophomores took geometry, they also had the option of taking consumer math. As sophomores enjoyed these increasing privileges and freedoms, they learned that their freedoms came with more responsibility.

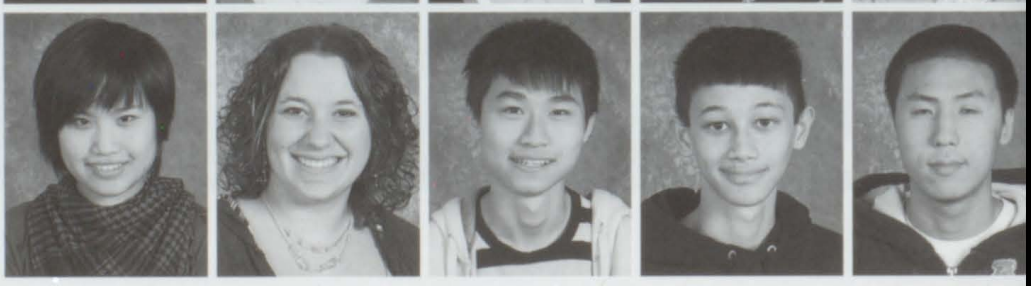
–Bailey Davis

Right: Getting his homework out of the way, **Willy Shih** works during study hall. Shih experienced many changes in his first year at Nebraska Christian, as his Taiwanese school was Catholic, had no lockers, and taught British and Australian English.

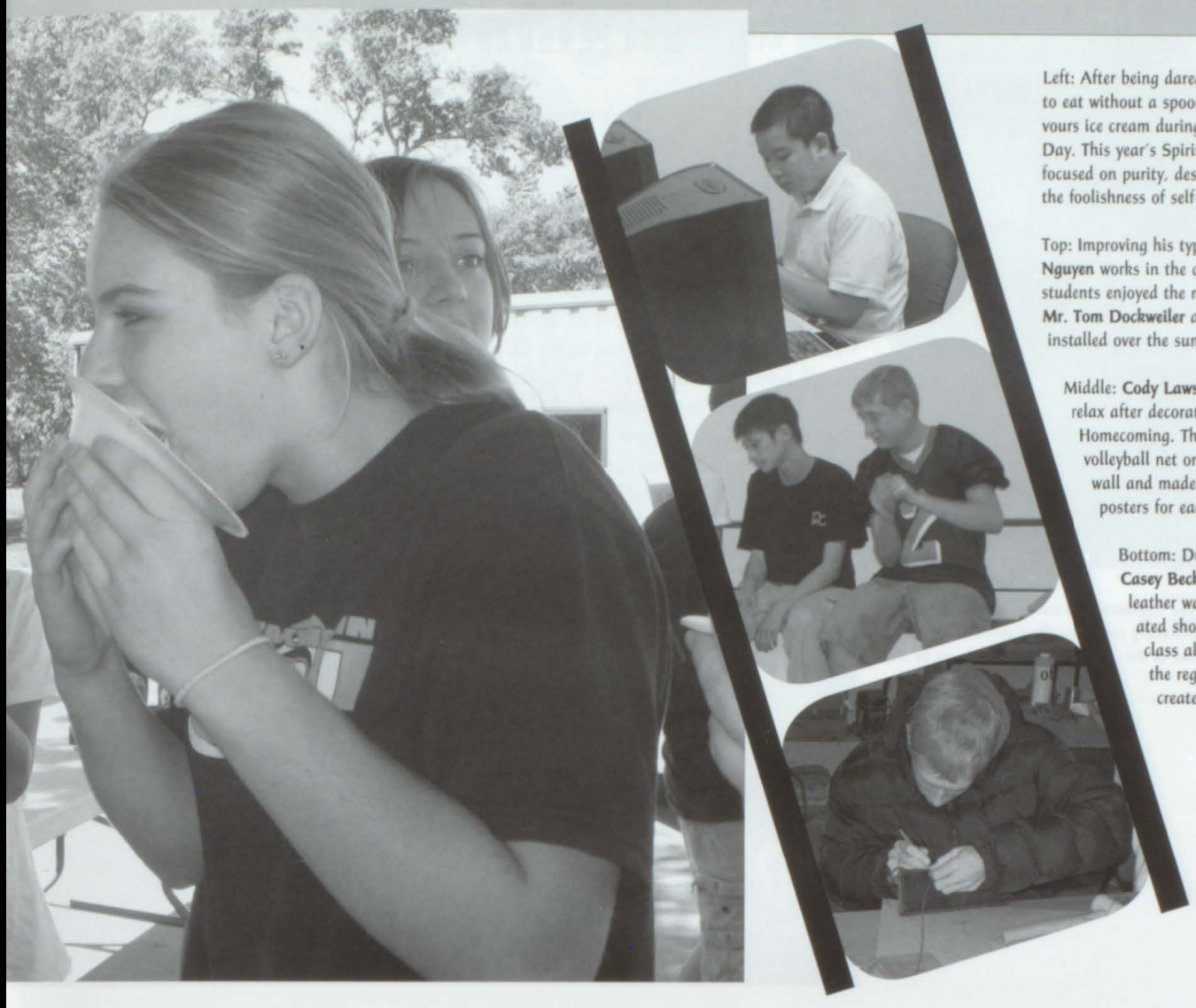


Sarah Armatys
Casey Beck
Michael Chen
Tim Cho
Bailey Davis

James Davis
Anna Faeh
Kendra Griepenstroh
Sable Homolka
Alice Kim



Yeni Kim
Stephany Krieger
Alex Kwong
Cody Lawson
Trevor Lee

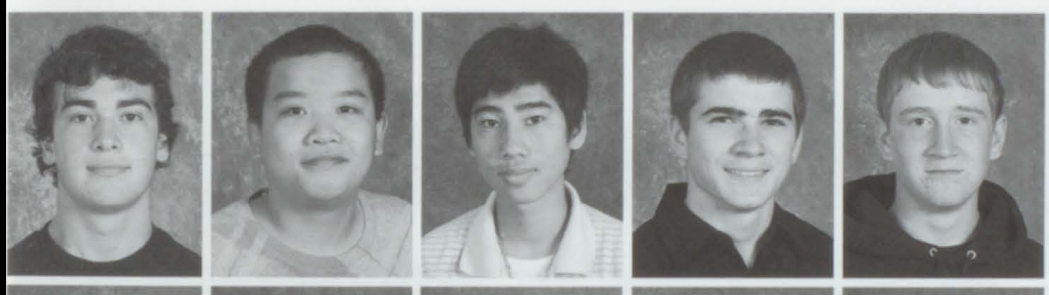


Left: After being dared by her classmates to eat without a spoon, **Alycea Unruh** devours ice cream during Spiritual Emphasis Day. This year's Spiritual Emphasis Day focused on purity, desiring the Lord, and the foolishness of self-rightousness.

Top: Improving his typing speed, **Thi Nguyen** works in the computer lab. Many students enjoyed the newer computers that **Mr. Tom Dockweiler** and **Mr. Gib Killion** installed over the summer.

Middle: **Cody Lawson** and **Scott Ritta** relax after decorating the gym for Homecoming. The sophomores hung a volleyball net on the southeast gym wall and made volleyball-shaped posters for each player.

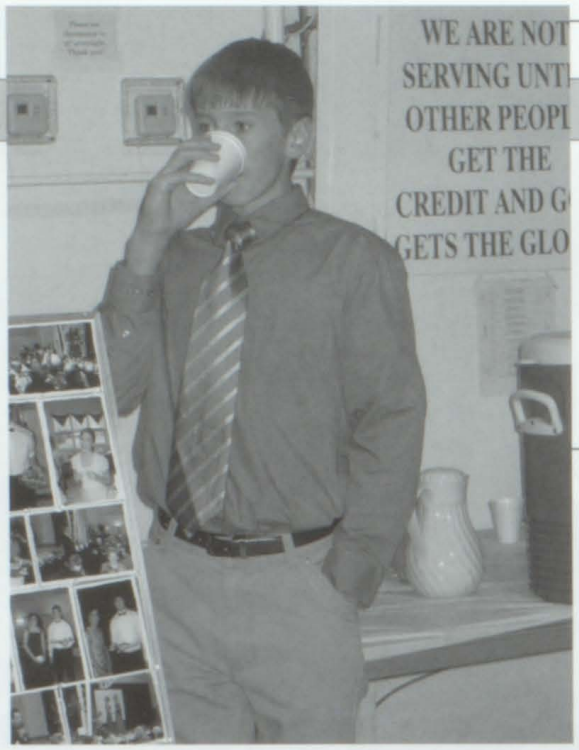
Bottom: During shop class, **Casey Beck** works on making a leather wallet. Beck appreciated shop class because the class allowed him to get out the regular classroom and create new things.



Jordan McHargue
Thi Nguyen
Son Nguyen
Nathan Ritta
Scott Ritta

Caleb Schulze
Willy Shih
Jarrod Thiessen
Michelle Toukan
Katrina Troester

Alycea Unruh
John Zhang



"I liked helping with the 50th Anniversary Harvest Festival."
—Luke Woods

Beginning Anew

Freshman year was the start of something new for all. This year brought only a few new faces and many returning, but from the beginning of the year, it was evident there was something special about the freshmen. "It was really cool to see the way we all bonded as a class — even the first day," **Levi Landrigan** remarked. As the year wore on, the class grew even closer. Although the transformation from junior high to high school was challenging, with extra homework and increasingly demanding sports practices, everyone adjusted with ease. "One of the greatest things about freshman year was competing in sports," **Seth Bailey** commented. All the freshman boys participated in football, which was a great bonding experience for them. Everyone in the class looked forward to competing for Christ at an even more challenging and strenuous level than they had in junior high. During the year, as well as bonding in sports, everyone developed relationships with their brothers and sisters in Christ by constantly helping each other. **Jessica Davis** stated, "This was definitely an amazing way to start out high school."

–Katie Wilkins

Right: The freshman boys relax together before the Homecoming pep rally. The freshmen decorated one corner of the gym as an encouragement to the football boys.

Seth Bailey
Shelisa Boutin
Jessica Davis
Isaac Elge
Jasmine Guo
Ashley Kenny

Jessica Kim
Levi Landrigan
Wai Ng
Jacob Simmons
Cody Smith
Jonathan Smith

Joanna Stuhmer
Andrew Swanson
Katie Wilkins
Luke Woods
Kourtney Zhang

Left: In Family and Consumer Science class, **Jasmine Guo** whips up cream puff batter. During FCS, the girls learned about sewing, cooking, and becoming godly women.

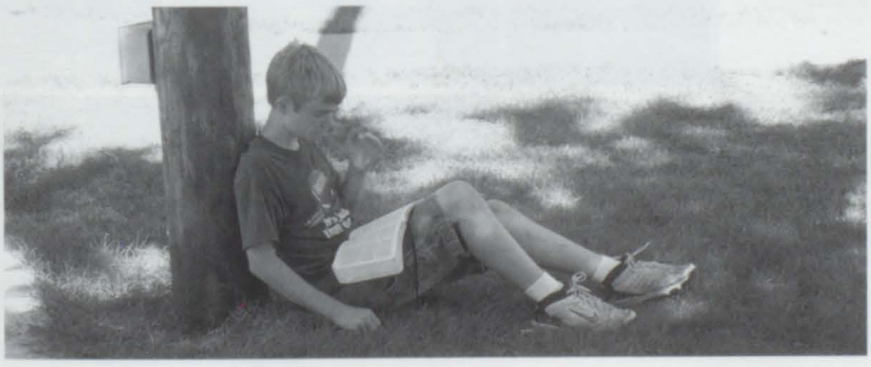
Top: Looking through previous yearbooks, **Katie Wilkins** works to find ideas for her yearbook pages. Since half of the yearbook staff were seniors, underclassmen like Wilkins had to be trained in all aspects of yearbook journalism.

Middle: With a servant's attitude, **Ashley Kenny** serves drinks at the Harvest Festival. Choir members served at the various fundraisers and festivals throughout the year.

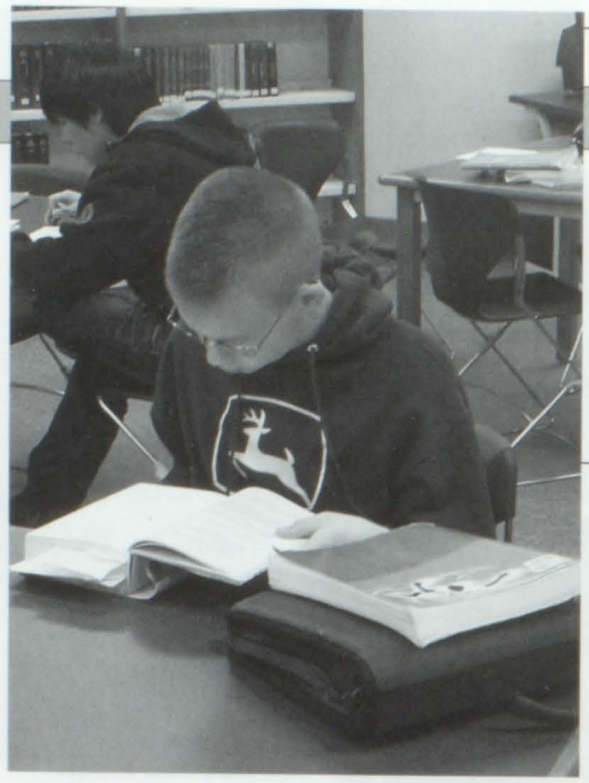
Bottom: **Kourtney Zhang** works on a sketch of her hands in art class. Zhang further developed her drawing abilities through art class.

Left: Focusing intently during band class, **Levi Landrigan** works to perfect his part. Landrigan strove for excellence in every activity he was involved in, including football, speech, basketball, and track.

Right: During study time, **Ashley Kenny**, **Shelisa Boutin**, **Joanna Stuhmer**, and **Jessica Davis** construct a "human" chair. Ninth period business class was a highlight of the day for many freshmen.



Bottom: **Seth Bailey** reads his Bible during the fall Spiritual Emphasis Day. This year at both Spiritual Emphasis Days, time was provided for students to have their own personal devotions.



Crossing the Bridge

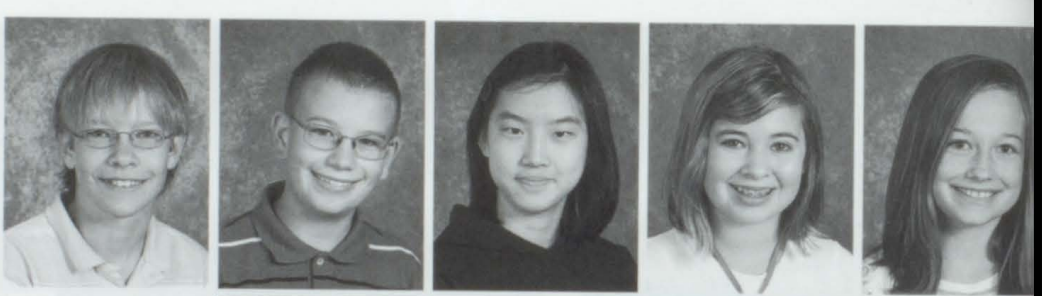
"Study Hall is my favorite class!"
–Beran Fisher

Junior high is, in many ways, a bridge. It can be compared to an old, rickety bridge that spans the great chasm separating elementary from high school. Each year, a new batch of seventh graders crosses this long bridge that leads to high school. **Scott Smith** said, "Junior high is very different from elementary; there have been a lot of changes, but, personally, I like them!" At first, many new junior high students experienced growing pains that accompanied these changes. The more experienced eighth graders stepped up, helped them up, and showed the seventh graders the ropes. One of the most challenging changes the junior high students faced was more responsibility inside and outside the classroom. "Being in 8th grade was cool because we were not below everyone anymore, which also meant more responsibility," said **Braden Moody**.

Adjusting to junior high was a long process, much like that of finding balance on a swinging bridge. The junior highers made mistakes and fell, but they picked themselves up and kept going. Although junior high was not the most enjoyable time for most, it was still important, for the slip-ups and changes helped them mature and prepared them for entry into high school. –Seth Bailey

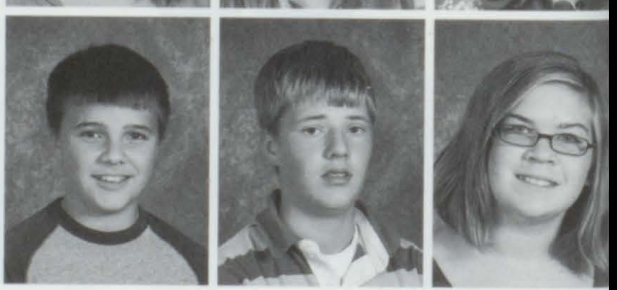
Right: **Anthony Faeh**, **Braden Moody**, **Curtis Heuermann**, and **Derek Rose** diligently work on their computer assignment. Typing is a skill first introduced in elementary, then reinforced in junior high.

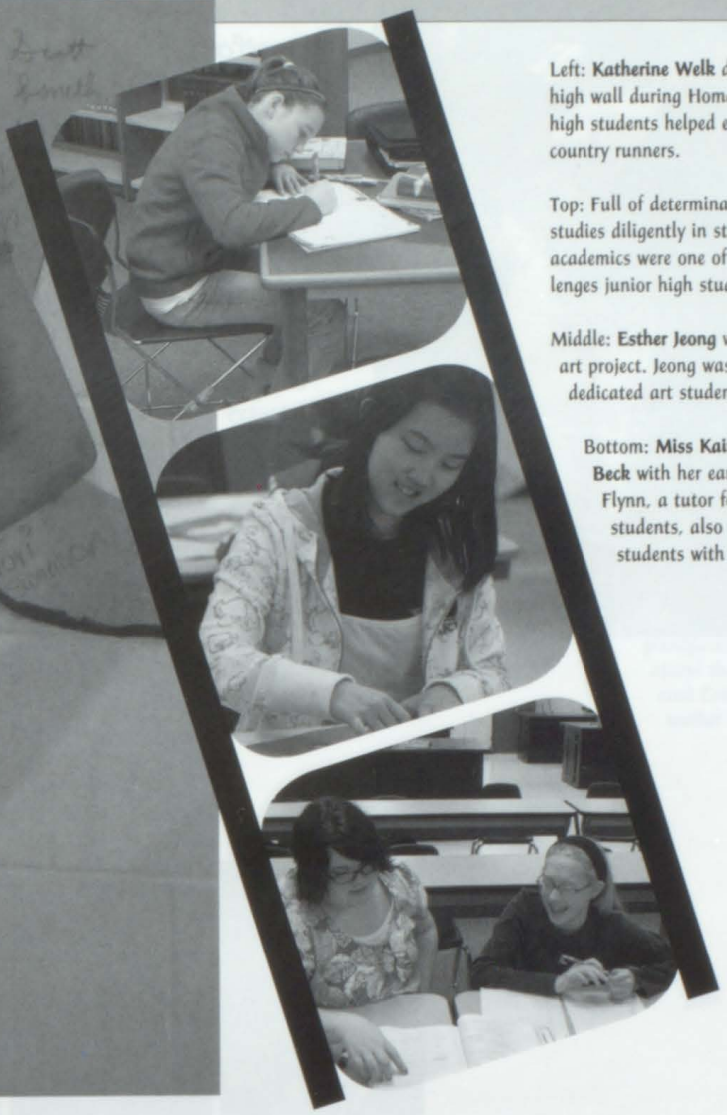
Shyler Boutin, 7
Beran Fisher, 7
Esther Jeong, 7
Rachel McHargue, 7
Cailyn Ostrand, 7



Scott Smith, 7
Haley Warnock, 7
Carrie Beck, 8
Kimberly Deichmann, 8

Anthony Faeh, 8
Curtis Heuermann, 8
Anna Kirby, 8





Left: **Katherine Welk** decorates the junior high wall during Homecoming. The junior high students helped encourage the cross country runners.

Top: Full of determination, **Cailyn Ostrand** studies diligently in study hall. Harder academics were one of the many new challenges junior high students faced.

Middle: **Esther Jeong** works skillfully on her art project. Jeong was a hardworking and dedicated art student.

Bottom: **Miss Kaity Flynn** helps **Carrie Beck** with her earth science homework. Flynn, a tutor for international students, also helped junior high students with science.

Bekah Mead, 8
Rachel Miller, 8
Braden Moody, 8
Lauren Prettyman, 8
Shawna Ritta, 8

Derek Rose, 8
Tori Swanson, 8
Danielle Thiessen, 8
Hannah Warnock, 8

Jae Welk, 8
Katherine Welk, 8

"The uniform was really hot."
–Shane Myers

Learning to Praise

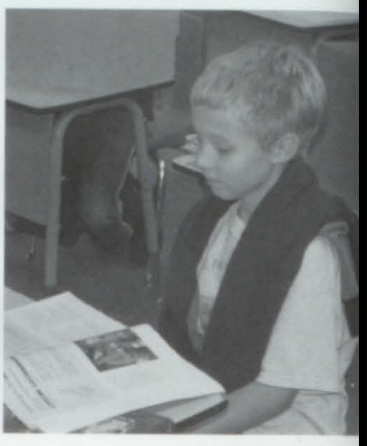
"Praise the Lord from the earth you great sea creatures and all the depths," says Psalm 148:7. This verse was the Nebraska Christian elementary's theme verse for the 2008–2009 school year.

Elementary students discovered many different ways to praise the Lord both on and off campus throughout the year.

One of the ways these children praised the Lord on campus was during chapel. "My favorite part of chapel was when the man came to tell us stories about Jesus," said **Bennett Zaruba**. **Ariel Coleman** added, "I love the singing; it's the very best part!"

Elementary students also praised God through learning about His world. Students learned interesting facts and enjoyed themselves on field trips. A giggling **Savannah Zimmer** stated about a trip to the Stuhr Museum, "Nebraska pioneers could make popcorn, too!" Another exciting trip was the sixth graders' visit to the Henry Doorly Zoo. "We went into the new butterfly exhibit, and one of the butterflies landed on my head," said **Jerod Prettyman**. Ultimately, through trips outside the classroom, elementary students gained more knowledge about the great God they sang to every Wednesday.

–Jessica Bailey



Right: Waiting patiently for lunch, **Brayden Gustafson** reads his language arts book. Lunch was many elementary students' favorite time of day, besides recess.

Keziah Dexter, 3
Brayden Gustafson, 3
Annjolena Kenny, 3

Nicholas Lovejoy, 3
Claire Ostrand, 3
Spencer Williams, 3
Marilla Flynn, 4
T.J. Kenny, 4

Sarah Simmons, 4
Reagan Williams, 4
Christina Bailey, 5
Sharina Boutin, 5
Noah Dexter, 5

Zachary Dockweiler, 5
Whitney Heuermann, 5
Alexis Hower, 5
Rubi McHargue, 5
Shane Myers, 5

Left: Happily singing praises to the Lord, **Marilla Flynn** leads the high school chapel service in song. Flynn practiced her singing talents in the band God's Girls Giving God Glory.

Top: Concentrating intently, **Maddie Kirby** adds a splash of color to the sidewalk. While the high school students decorated the gym building for Homecoming, the elementary brought pizazz to the campus by covering the sidewalks with chalk pictures.

Middle: During a home football game, **Dillon Rose** purchases a tasty snack from the concession stand. Juniors kept the concession stand well-stocked with many different choices of pop and candy.

Bottom: **Mechelle Williams** listens to her daughter, **Reagan Williams**, read. Since Reagan's grandparents were unable to attend the elementary's annual Grandparents' Day, her mother came instead.

Cassidy Ostrand, 5
Alyssa Prettyman, 5
Morgan Prettyman, 5
Dillon Rose, 5
Christina Starkey, 5

Jayden Swanson, 5
Maddie Kirby, 6
Michaila Lovejoy, 6
Hannah Mead, 6
Jerod Prettyman, 6

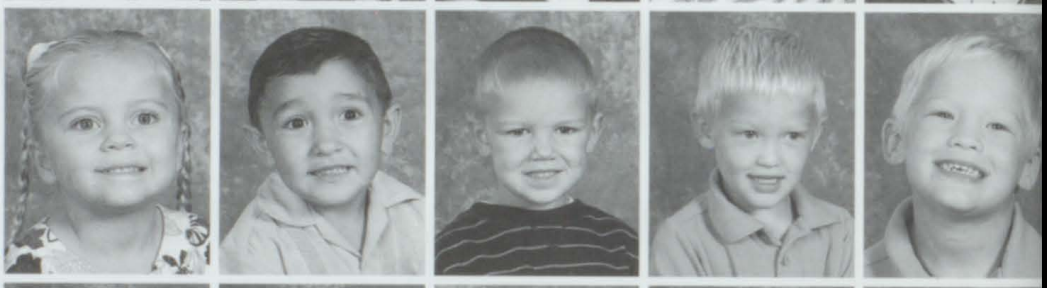
Brittany Ritta, 6
Hannah Ritta, 6
Andrew Sack, 6
Emily Simmons, 6
Ethan Unruh, 6

"I like to play kickball in P.E."
–Kalob Green

Right: **Stephanie Strobel** organizes her desk during her free time. Keeping desks clean eliminated the possibility of losing important assignments.

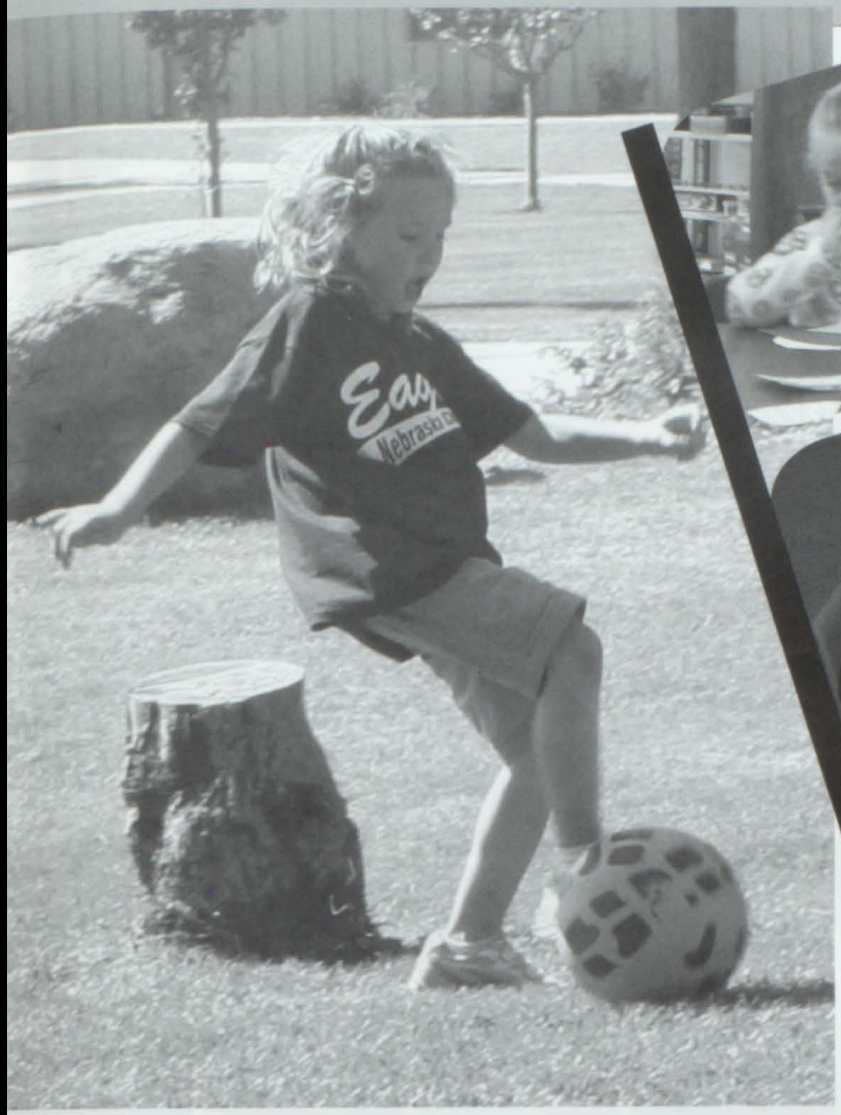
Zachary Egeland, P
Micah Green, P
Katy Lovejoy, P
Shelby McHargue, P
Sidney McHargue, P

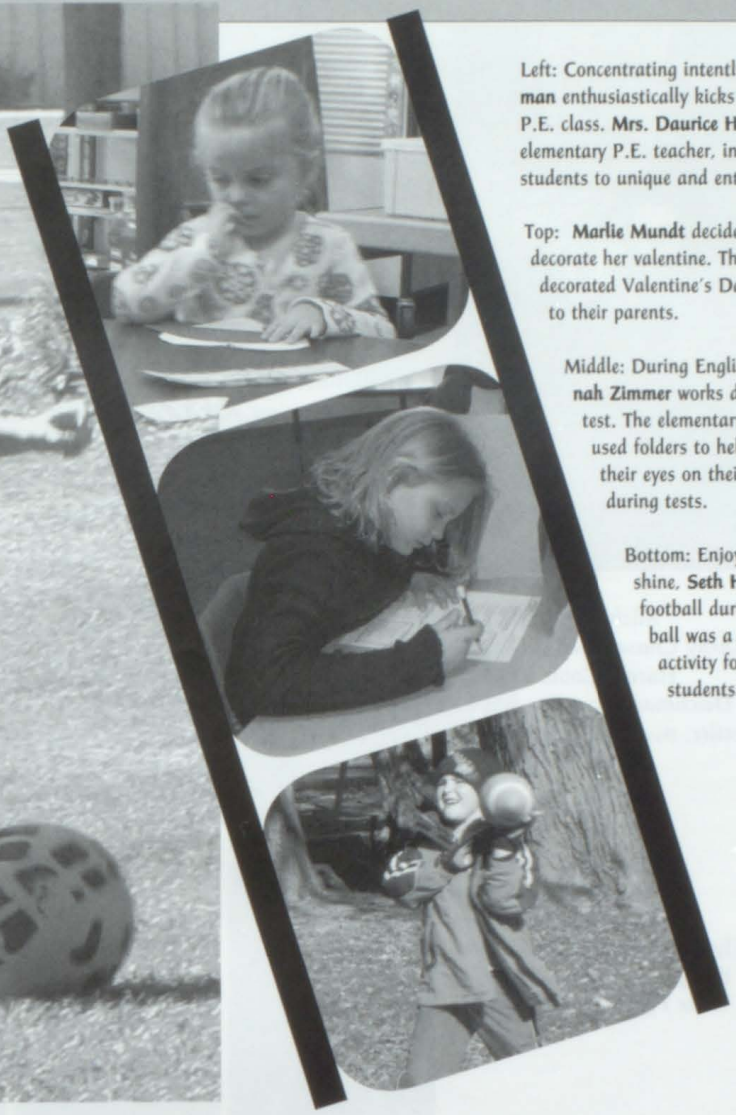
Marlie Mundt, P
Miklo Ortiz, P
Drew Perdew, P
Lane Zimmer, P
Levi Zimmer, P



Caroline Adams, K
Elijah Green, K
Connor Lovejoy, K
Carl Mundt, K
Angela Prettyman, K

Joshua Strong, K
Tobias Zaruba, K
Kalob Green, 1
Kelby Gustafson, 1
Seth Hower, 1





Left: Concentrating intently, **Olivia Prettyman** enthusiastically kicks the ball during P.E. class. **Mrs. Daurice Hower**, the lower elementary P.E. teacher, introduced the students to unique and entertaining games.

Top: **Marlie Mundt** decides how to decorate her valentine. The preschool class decorated Valentine's Day cards to give to their parents.

Middle: During English class, **Savannah Zimmer** works diligently on her test. The elementary students often used folders to help them keep their eyes on their own papers during tests.

Bottom: Enjoying the sunshine, **Seth Hower** tosses the football during recess. Football was a favorite recess activity for the elementary students.

Todd Kenny, 1
Marie Ortiz, 1
Stephanie Strobel, 1
Ariel Coleman, 2
Jonathan Dockweiler, 2

Alyssa Gustafson, 2
Kay Kenny, 2
Stephen Kenny, 2
Jada McHargue, 2
Carsyn Ostrand, 2

Olivia Prettyman, 2
Halle Strong, 2
Madalyn Warnock, 2
Bennett Zaruba, 2
Savannah Zimmer, 2

"I'd rather be teaching [than] cleaning erasers."
–Mr. Bill Uhler

Influencing Lives

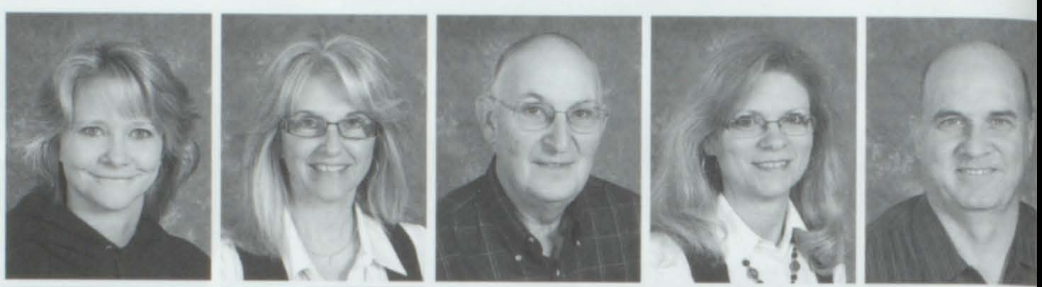
Most high school seniors cannot wait to leave high school behind. They cannot fathom returning to work at their alma mater. Yet, many Nebraska Christian alumni have done just that; currently seven alumni serve on the NC staff. "It's a great place to serve God, and He has not led me elsewhere," said **Mr. Bob Ritta**, who graduated in 1969. Ritta has been on staff longer than any other NC graduate and has served in a variety of roles, including boys' dorm parent, director of maintenance, junior high Bible teacher and sophomore Bible teacher.

The most recent NC graduate to join the staff is **Miss Kaity Flynn**, who graduated in 2006. Her attitude toward working at her alma mater is similar to Ritta's. "Returning to NC feels like returning home," she says. "It feels great to be in a Christian environment everyday."

All the alumni on staff would agree that they are blessed to be able to influence Nebraska Christian students for Christ, just as they themselves were once influenced.

–Kiel Hansen

Michele Boutin, Cook
Kathy Chase, Development Office
Harold Cook, Custodian
Becky Deichmann, Development Office
Tom Dockweiler, Business Manager/Computer



Ruth Ferris, Librarian
Susan Fisher, Receptionist
Dee Flynn, Science/Boys' Dorm/English
Kaity Flynn, International Tutor
Mike Flynn, Music/Boys' Dorm

Gil Glad, Public Relations
Jody Heuermann, Development Office
Barb Hoff, English/ESL
Larry Hoff, International Program/ESL/Coach
Daurice Hower, Int. Program/Elem. Art, PE & Spanish

Scott Johnson, Bible
Gib Killion, International Program/ESL
Craig Lorenz, Junior High History/Girls' Dorm
Jennifer Lorenz, Girls' Dorm
Karen Miotke, Business Office

Nadine Myers, Cook
Carl Ostrand, Senior High History/Bible/Coach
Tonya Ostrand, Spanish/PE/Coach
Marlow Pedersen, Industrial Arts
Gwen Prettyman, Drama

Left: **Mrs. Denise Schreiber** hands goodies to brothers **Elijah** and **Kalob Green** at the annual all-school carnival. Adding a new twist to the carnival, riders from the Christian Motorcyclist Association brought their bikes and gave rides to the elementary students.

John Prettyman, Bible
Rick Prettyman, Bible
Becky Ritta, ESL/Yearbook/Speech/Secretary
Bob Ritta, Head of Maintenance
Marilynn Ritta, Cook

Susan Ritta, Secretary
Denise Schreiber, 3rd/4th
Larry Schreiber, Activities Dir./PE/Guidance Counselor
Charissa Smith, 5th/6th
Cheryl Smith, Elem. Aide

Janice Stuhmer, 1st/2nd/Elem. Head Teacher/English
Jane Swartz, Science
Gordon Thiessen, Chaplain/Coach
Bill Uhler, Math/Coach
Jacky Uhler, Business/Computer

Patty Welk, Elementary Library/Resource
Daniel Woods, Superintendent/Bible
Kimmarie Woods, Art/Family & Consumer Science
Verna Zaruba, Preschool/Kindergarten
Robert Ziegler, Bible/Math/Program Coord./Coach

"I love helping lead in worship and singing praises to God."
–Alycea Unruh

Rising Above

For fifty years, the purpose of Nebraska Christian Schools has been to equip students with a biblical worldview. An important part of seeing the world and culture through biblical eyeglasses is knowing and understanding the Scriptures. While daily Bible classes assisted the students, gathering together once a week to praise God and listen to a speaker was also an important tool. "I like chapel because the whole student body comes together to learn and worship," said **Stephany Krieger**.

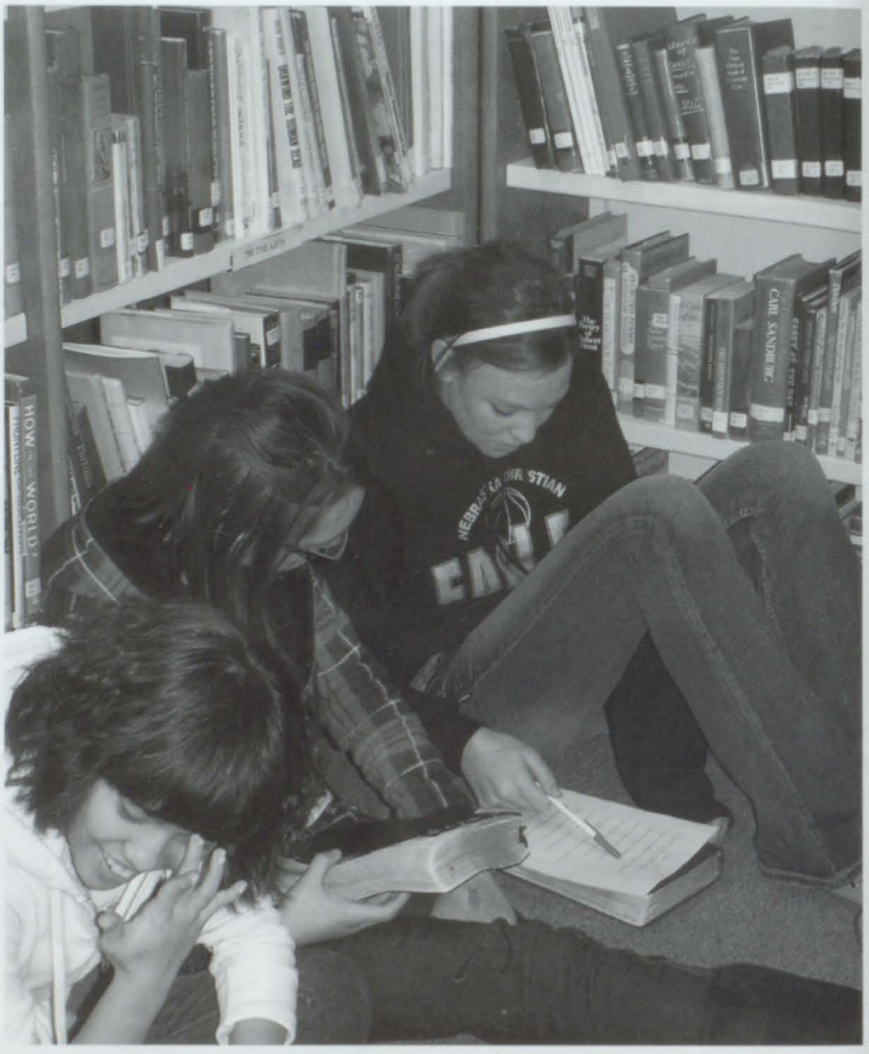
Every year, a new theme is selected for chapel. This year's specific focus was on raising godly men and women. **Mr. Robert Ziegler** used several chapels to teach the students the different roles for godly men and godly women. "It was an enjoyable study for me, and I learned some things myself. I think every man and woman desires to be godly, so it was good to do something practical," remarked Ziegler.

The chapel seating chart, which placed junior highers directly behind seniors, was another tool used for growth. "I think it's a good example of how seniors should be examples to the younger students," said **Emily Murphy**.

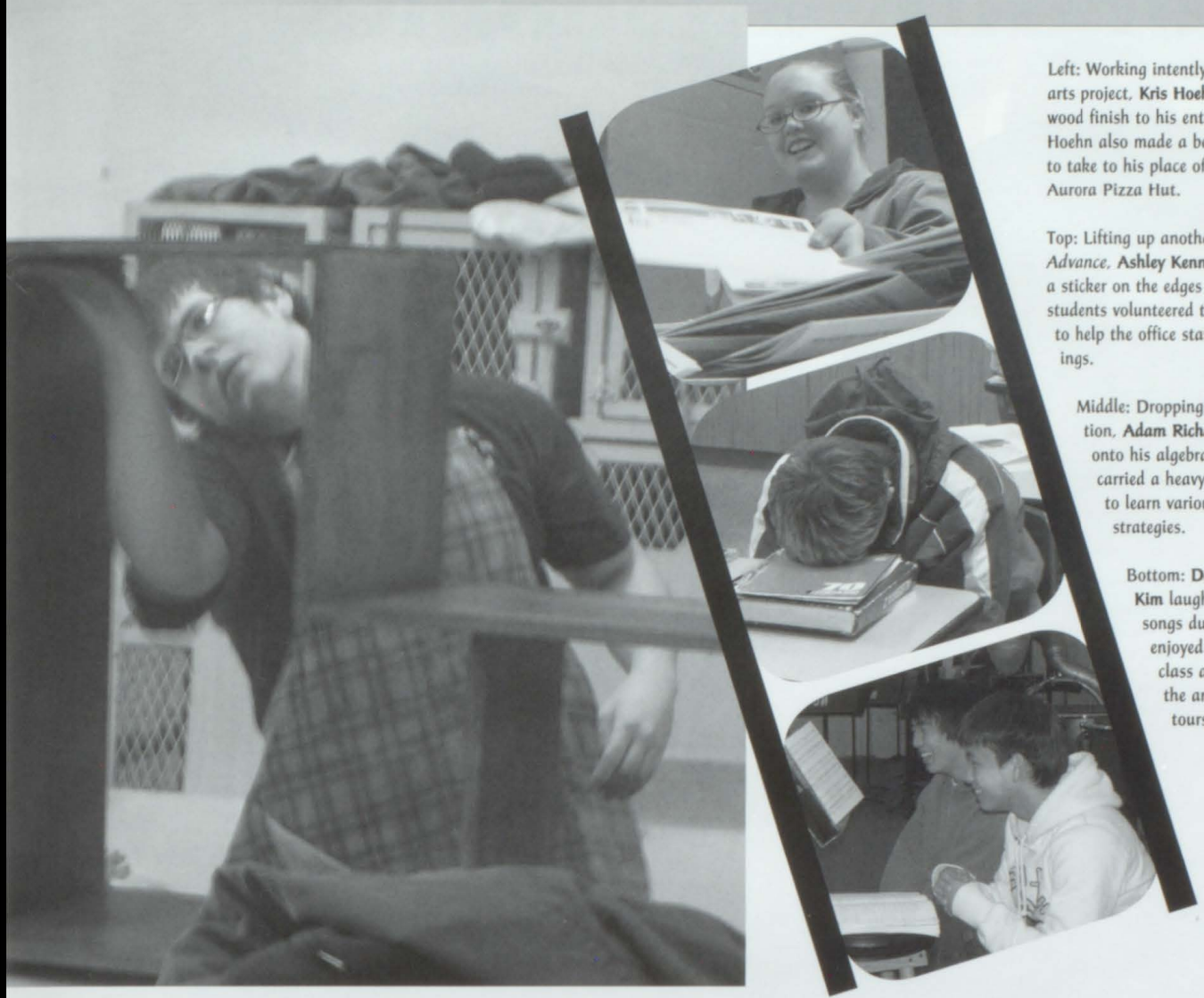
–Jessica Bailey

Above: Jumping, dancing, and singing, members of Matsiko joyfully praise the Lord. The Ugandan children's choir, which toured the United States in the fall of 2008, provided one of the most memorable chapel experiences of the year.

Above: **Braden Swanson, Wesley Kembel, Kiel Hansen, Casey Rose, Zachary Troester, Ben Thiessen**, and **Darren Holzinger** lift their voices to praise God during chapel. Each week before the speaker took the podium, students sang praises of thanksgiving and worship to God.



Above: After learning about virtuous womanhood from several female staff members, **Alice Kim, Jessica Davis**, and **Elizabeth Griess** work together to discover the virtues of the Proverbs 31 Woman. Men and women were split for the annual "Christmas" chapel, which was held the first day back from Christmas vacation. A snow day moved the last day of finals and the Christmas chapel from December to early January.



Left: Working intently on his industrial arts project, **Kris Hoehn** adds a layer of wood finish to his entertainment center. Hoehn also made a bench in shop class to take to his place of employment, the Aurora Pizza Hut.

Top: Lifting up another copy of the *NC Advance*, **Ashley Kenny** prepares to place a sticker on the edges of the paper. Several students volunteered their study hall time to help the office staff with large mailings.

Middle: Dropping his head in frustration, **Adam Richardson** plops his face onto his algebra book. Many juniors carried a heavy class load and had to learn various stress-coping strategies.

Bottom: **David Kim** and **Jae Kim** laugh at a joke between songs during choir. Students enjoyed the light atmosphere class as they prepared for the annual spring choir tours and music contests.

"Knots, knots, and more knots. I do not want to be a pioneer woman!"
–Jessica Bailey

Envisioning the Future

Preparation: a simple word that holds meaning beyond the letters that compose it. Looking back on history, great accomplishments by great people can be seen, but behind their noble deeds were hours of preparation. These preparations could be intellectual, tactical, physical, or otherwise. Throughout Nebraska Christian's campus, there was a future generation bursting with the potential to change an entire culture. So, whether students were learning the fine art of keeping and maintaining a household in Family and Consumer Science or learning the minute details of an atom in science class, they were preparing for the future. "Academics here are more difficult than in a public school, and it helps us to be prepared for the future, which [for most] is college," stated **Rebekah Poeffel**. The "sword" cut both ways, as the older and more mature students became physically, the more mature they needed to be spiritually. The power of Christ that flourished within allowed students to grow while preparing them for the spiritual conflicts they would inevitably face in life. **Cheri Garwood** said, "The classes [at Nebraska Christian] have caused me to be bolder and become closer to God in my spiritual walk."

–Darren Holzinger

Recording Memories

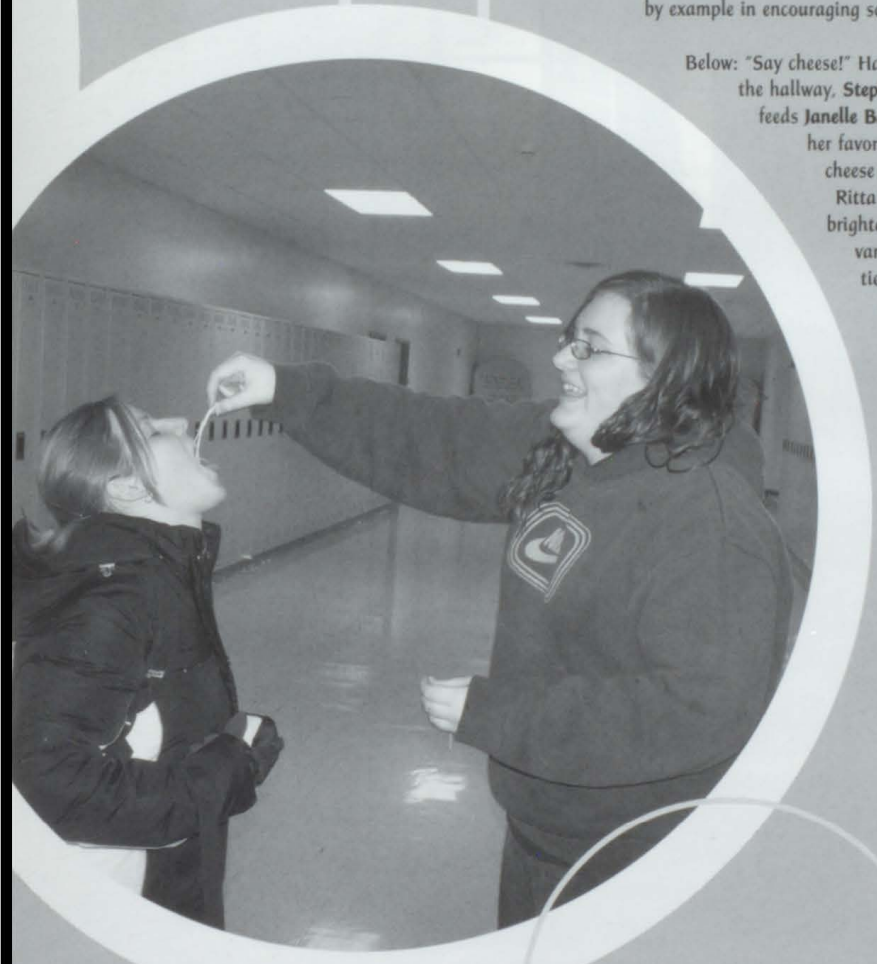
Top: Glancing over at her other restless Sparkies, **Amber Rainbolt** listens to **Jada McHargue** recite her verses for the week. Rainbolt greatly enjoyed working with the young Sparkies.

Center: Scarves flying, hair blowing, and smiles gleaming, **Danielle Richards, Elizabeth Griess, Raymond Johnson,** and **Jae Kim** hurry through the pelting snow to their next class. While the new building housed most classes, senior students still had to trek to the Administration Building for Bible class.

Above right: Shielding herself from the drizzling rain, **Lacy Tonniges** holds her umbrella high above her head. Tonniges expressed school spirit by attending games, home and away.

Above: Front to back, left to right: Sitting in the bleachers, **Mrs. Dee Flynn** and **Mr. Mike Flynn**, **Haijie Wu**, **Alex Kwong**, **Joey Sun**, and **Thi Nguyen** devour popcorn and pop during a basketball game. As first-year dorm parents, the Flynns led by example in encouraging school spirit.

Below: "Say cheese!" Having fun in the hallway, **Stephanie Ritta** feeds **Janelle Bailey** one of her favorite foods, a cheese stick. Both Ritta and Bailey brightened up the various activities they were involved in with their trademark energy and humor.



As time marches on, it brings with it technological advancements. These various improvements have completely changed the way students record memories. Video cameras, digital cameras, and now even multimedia phones capture those precious moments when friendships are formed, minds are opened, and laughter and fun reign.

When Nebraska Christian opened its doors in 1959, the technology today's students use to capture memories was unavailable. However, the first NC students still recorded their memories — through photographs, journals, and *The Reflector*. For the past 50 years, new students have moved into the dorms; others have traveled to foreign countries to help build churches and houses. Many students have worked at after school jobs. Whether traveling the world or working at the Coffee Bean, students past and present recorded their time at NC.

–Shannon Rodehorst

Top Right: **Shinri Uemura** feeds *kimchi*, a Korean delicacy, to a brave **Caleb Urban**. Urban endured several bites of the spicy fermented cabbage in the game "Pain or Pleasure" during the Homecoming pep rally.

Below: Flashing matching grins to go with their matching banana suits, **Danielle Richards** and **Karrah Miller** display their imagination and fun-loving spirits on Twin Day. Twin Day returned to the Spirit Week lineup after a few years' absence.

Above: Student Council Members, left to right, front to back: Front: Scott Smith. Middle: Danielle Thiessen, Rebecca Woods (Treasurer), Braden Swanson (President), Wesley Kembel (Vice President), Abbie Krug. Back: Andrew Swanson, Jordan McHargue, Emily Murphy (Secretary), Cheri Garwood.

Right: Concentrating, **Rebecca Woods** diligently fills encouragement sacks. Instead of using the traditional encouragement balloons, the Student Council chose to hand out suckers.

Below: Complete with halter, hat, and jacket, **Jonathan Smith** strolls back to the new building to top off his day as a cowboy. Fifties Day was new to the dress-up week this year in honor of Nebraska Christian's 50th year.

Reuniting with Friends

Personalities surfaced in students' favorite week of the school year — Homecoming. Homecoming dress-up days allowed students to express themselves and display school spirit. Since the 2008–2009 school year marked Nebraska Christian's 50th year of educating students, one of the dress-up days focused on the year of jubilee. Students dressed up in saddle shoes, poodle skirts, and other fifties apparel. Twin Day also encouraged bonding among classmates. Concerning Twin Day, **Danielle Richards** said, "I just thought, 'If we could dress like bananas, why not?'" Matthew 28:19, the Great Commission, created the foundation for Nation Day. International students especially enjoyed Nation Day because they were able to dress up in traditional outfits from their respective countries. The week culminated with Blue and White Day.

In honor of the 50th anniversary, alumni received a special invitation to Homecoming. More than 70 alumni, representing 24 classes, returned to support the Eagles in their volleyball and football games. The Lady Eagles snagged a victory, and the boys presented a great effort on the field. At halftime of the football game, **Mr. Dan Woods**, the school's superintendent, honored the alumni by presenting them each with a pen. After the game, instead of crowning a king and queen, all the seniors were honored. Ultimately, all who attended enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and classmates.

–Cheri Garwood

Above: Concentrating on her design, **Anna Dinh** decorates the gym for Spirit Week. By the end of the day, the gym walls were plastered with colorful banners that screamed encouraging words to the athletes.

Above: Cruising down the hallway, **Elliot Murphy** sticks by his twin **Jordan McHargue**. Despite not having many classes together, Murphy and McHargue still decided to dress up like hicks for Twin Day.

Above: Nervously smiling down at her schoolmates, **Danielle Thiessen** stands on a lunch table. Each day, students voted on the best-dressed by cheering for their favorite.

Right: Left to right, front to back: Row 1: Wai Ng, West Zhang, Michael Chen, Johnny Chang, Jessica Dexter, Haijie Wu, Alex Kwong, Alex Newby, John Zhang. Row 2: Alice Kim, Esther Jeong, Stephany Krieger, Jasmine Guo, Shinri Uemura, Trevor Lee, Joey Sun, Katie Wilkins, Anna Dinh. Row 3: Yeni Kim, Kevin Lee, Chansoo Park, Kenneth Go, Levi Landrigan, Jae Kim, Gail Mao. Row 4: Jess Luong, Anne Tran, An Tran, Thayer Dungan, Son Nguyen, Thi Nguyen, Jessica Kim, Shannon Rodehorst. (Not pictured: Tim Cho, Arisa Chon, Kensy Kaelin, David Kim, Fred Lee, Cas Luong, Willy Shih, Kourtney Zhang.)

Top: **Shinri Uemura** cuts her birthday cookie. Dorm students celebrated Uemura's birthday with a party at North Park hosted by **Danielle Richards**.

Bottom: **Wai Ng**, **David Kim**, **Jae Kim**, **Fred Lee** and **Michael Chen** multi-task by listening to music and using the computers. The dorm computer labs were popular as students used the internet to communicate with their friends and family back home.

Right: **Jessica Kim** pushes **Esther Jeong** on a tricycle down the sidewalk by the cafeteria one day after school. As winter ended and warm spring days entered the area, many students spent as much time as possible outside.

Below: Dying Easter eggs. **West Zhang** and **Johnny Chang** dip eggs into the dyes while at a "home stay" at **Shannon Rodehorst's** house over Easter break. International students often stayed with American families during school breaks.

New Experiences

Both dorms experienced significant changes in the 2008–2009 school year. **Mr. Mike Flynn** and **Mrs. Dee Flynn** became the new boys' dorm parents at the beginning of the year. **Mr. Craig Lorenz** and **Mrs. Jennifer Lorenz** returned to the girls' dorm for the first semester; following the birth of the Lorenz's second child in December, **Mr. Larry Hoff** and **Mrs. Barb Hoff** took over the dorm supervision duties.

Not only did both dorms have new dorm parents, but they were also filled with new students. Of the 16 girls' dorm students and 26 boys' dorm students, 22 were new to Nebraska Christian. While living with a group of strangers was overwhelming at first, most dorm students ended up enjoying their home away from home. "I really like being in the dorm and having a roommate because it is something I had never experienced before," commented **Joey Sun**.

Throughout the year, dorm students participated in a variety of exciting activities, including Christmas parties, birthday parties, and a Valentine's dinner. The international students were able to take in a variety of off-campus events as well. They spent weekends in Branson, Missouri, and Omaha; went skiing in Colorado; saw the Harlem Globetrotters in an exhibition game; and took in a rodeo and a performance of "Stomp" in Omaha.

Through the various activities and time spent in the dorm, students built friendships that would last a lifetime. **Katie Wilkins** stated, "What an amazing way to spend my first year here! I love these girls so much. This is honestly my second family."

–**Kensy Kaelin**

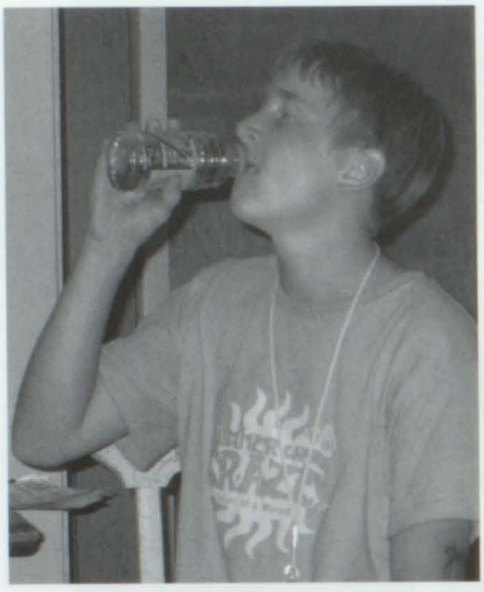
Above: **Thi Nguyen** plays ping-pong in the dorm. Nguyen enjoyed forming new friendships in his first year at Nebraska Christian.

Above: Drying the dorm dishes, **Stephany Krieger** and **Jess Luong** finish their dorm job. The dorm students had weekly rotating jobs which consisted of washing dishes, vacuuming, and even cleaning the bathroom.

Above: Gliding down the boys' dorm hallway, **Levi Landrigan** rides on a hovercraft. Physics students **Alex Newby**, **Casey Rose**, and **Braden Swanson** built the hovercraft as an extra credit project.

Right: **Shannon Rodehorst** encourages **Joshua Strong** to finish memorizing his verse. Many NC students gave up their Wednesday evenings to listen to elementary students recite verses at AWANA.

Below: Taking a break from Camp Craze, a VBS alternative run by a church near Tampa, **Scott Ritta** gulps down a refreshing Gatorade. Ritta spent a week in Florida, coaching football and teaching campers about Jesus.



Above: Leading game time at Camp Witness, **Cheri Garwood** calls out instructions for the popular game "Ships and Sailors." Garwood enjoyed teaching and mentoring the young children.

Right: Despite splattering water, **Cailyn Ostrand** and **Danielle Thiessen** continue to work hard, scrubbing the grit and grime from the school bus. During the spring Spiritual Emphasis Day, the entire student body washed the school buses and vans, as well as teachers' cars.

Above: After buying the book *Humility: True Greatness*, **Kiel Hansen** waits as author C.J. Mahaney autographs it. Hansen and eight other NC seniors listened to many great preachers at the Resolved Conference.

Giving Time

"Giving is true having," said Charles Spurgeon. Wrapped up in this quote is the ultimate paradox — only the things we give to God are the things we can truly keep. Nebraska Christian students gave away a great deal of one of high schoolers' most coveted possessions: time. Sacrificing Wednesday nights to help with AWANA allowed students to invest in their heavenly home. "Watching kids grow spiritually, sing praises to God, and learn verses about Him, make giving up two hours every week totally worth it," said **Stephanie Ritta**. Serving at school functions like the Harvest Festival or the Dinner and Benefit Auction also allowed students to invest their time in others.

During the school year, time was a precious commodity with homework and sports; therefore, many students volunteered their time during the summer months. Some went on mission trips throughout the United States or in other countries. According to **Karrah Miller**, "Even in the short week I was in North Carolina, I could see God working in the children's lives. It was amazing. I would go back in a heartbeat." Others worked at summer camps. **Rebecca Woods** returned to I Can Camp in Columbus for the second year. "I Can Camp opened my eyes to the underprivileged children living in Nebraska and gave me a heart to reach out to them," she said. Still others spent a week in California, soaking up biblically sound teaching. In the summer of 2008, Nebraska Christian sponsored a trip to the Resolved Conference in California for upcoming seniors and recent graduates. "The week we gave up to go to Resolved may have seemed like a waste, but the truths we learned will stay with us for eternity," said **Darren Holzinger**.

–Jessica Bailey

Above: Concentrating intensely, **Janelle Bailey** cuts into a board destined to become part of a house. Bailey grew spiritually while serving others on a missions trip to the Dominican Republic.

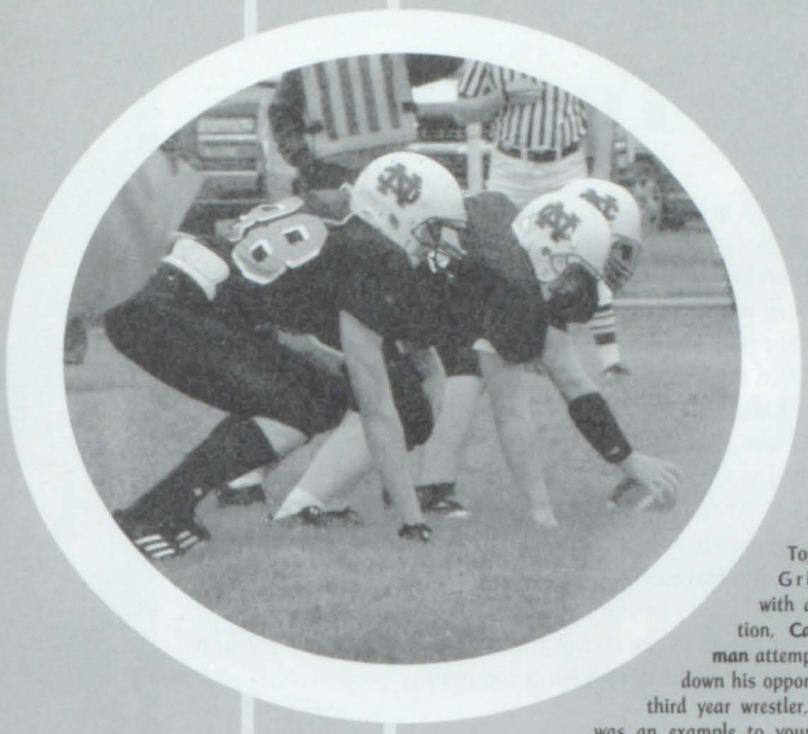
Above: Carefully balancing his tray laden with dirty dishes, **Johnny Chang** hurries to the kitchen. Several choir members helped serve as waiters and waitresses at the Harvest Festival.

Above: While discussing the week's Bible story, **Alex Newby** pauses to ask his Sparkies a question. This was Newby's second year helping out at Community Bible Church's AWANA program.

Reflecting Character

Top: Rapidly approaching the finish line, teammates **Tim Cho** and **Wai Ng** push hard to finish the race. Cho and Ng both immensely enjoyed running cross country and contributed greatly to the team throughout the season.

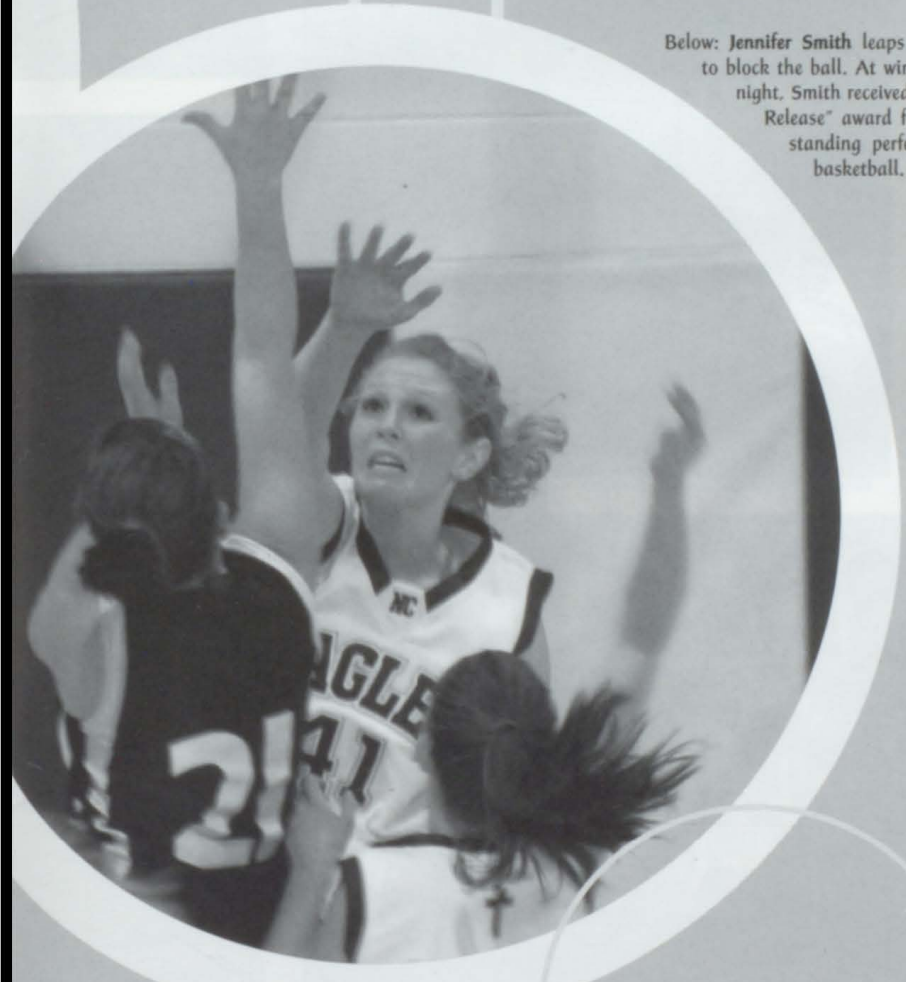
Center: After successfully clearing the bar, **Lacy Tonniges** topples to the mat. Tonniges, a four year track team member, received fourth place at the district meet.



Top right: Grimacing with determination, **Caleb Coleman** attempts to take down his opponent. As a third year wrestler, Coleman was an example to younger team members.

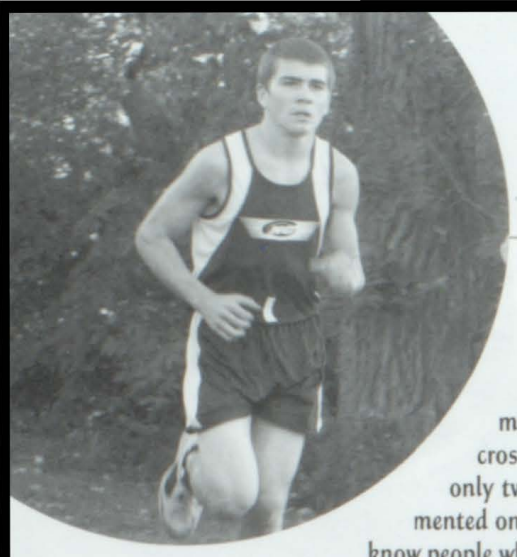
Above: Crouched on the line, the Eagles prepare to snap the ball and head toward their opponent. The 2008 season marked Nebraska Christian's 39th year of fielding a football team.

Below: **Jennifer Smith** leaps in the air to block the ball. At winter awards night, Smith received the "Total Release" award for her outstanding performance in basketball.



In Philippians 4:13, Paul stated, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." A few verses earlier, Paul said that he "learned to be content in whatever circumstance." That is precisely what the Nebraska Christian sports teams learned this year. Though not possessing the greatest records, they learned to be satisfied with winning or losing. They played for God's glory, which is greater than any sports victory. As teams strove to be like Christ, the members grew closer together and became families. **Andrew Swanson** commented, "The [wrestling] team bonded throughout the year, and I am looking forward to next year." This year, teams became more like Christ, and through His power, they learned to be content, whatever the outcome.

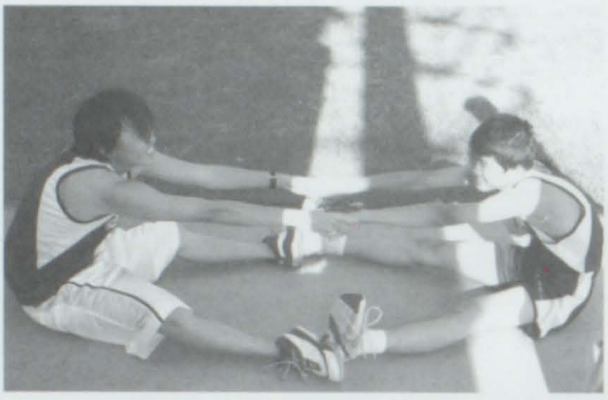
–Shannon Rodehorst and Stephanie Ritta



Running Together

Cross country: demanding, grueling, and ... international? Although this term may seem strange, it was very applicable to the 2008–2009 Nebraska Christian cross country team. More than half of the runners were international students, and only two of the runners had been on the team in previous years. **Rebecca Woods** commented on how much she enjoyed the vast diversity of the team: "I really enjoyed getting to know people who I might have never gotten the chance to talk to on a personal level [otherwise]." **Coach Larry Hoff** echoed her sentiment: "The kids accomplished things they never thought physically possible, while learning what it means to be a runner. At the same time, they had a good social time with our unique mix of international and American students. We had a good year!" **Willy Shih** said, "I really enjoyed the unity of the team; we all pushed each other to be the best we could be." Though many of the new runners were international students, at least one came from Nebraska. **Jessica Dexter**, a new student from Burwell, ran junior varsity and was a great asset to the team. On the boys' team, the rising star was **Nathan Ritta** (pictured above). Ritta, who played football his freshman year, chose to run cross country in order to stay in shape for wrestling. He routinely was the boys' top finisher, and he was always willing to give helpful pointers to the rest of the team. God used this team to show how people from different places and walks of life can come together to form a community.

-Thayer Dungan



Above: **Willy Shih** and **John Zhang** stretch together before a meet. They also pushed each other to run their best at the meets.

Right: **Alice Kim** enjoys the comfort of the soft grass after a hard run. Kim was an intense runner who always gave her all.

Right: Left to right, front to back: Row 1: Head Coach Larry Hoff, Alice Kim, Rebecca Woods, Jessica Dexter. Row 2: Student Manager Shannon Rodehorst, Alex Newby, Nathan Ritta, Thayer Dungan. Row 3: Son Nguyen, Willy Shih, Wai Ng, John Zhang. (Not pictured: Tim Cho, Trevor Lee.)

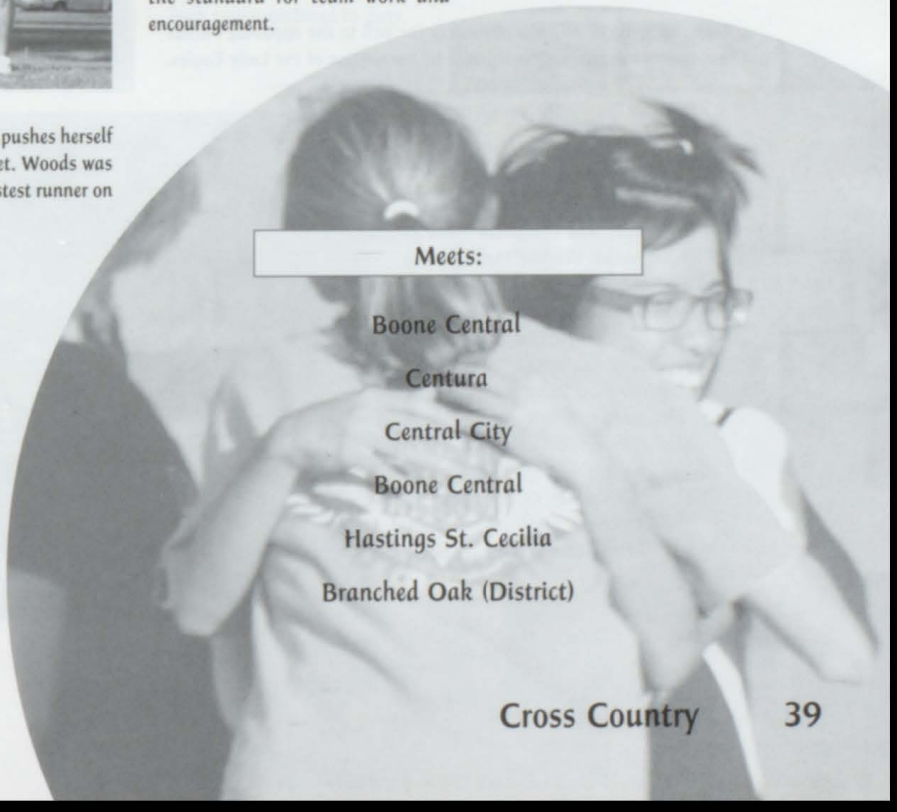
Left: Dashing from the starting line: **Rebecca Woods**, **Alice Kim**, and **Jessica Dexter** set their strides. A runner's stride was crucial to his or her success during the race.

Above: **Jessica Dexter** runs strong at the cross country meet. Dexter was always willing to push herself during the hard meets.

Left: **Rebecca Woods** pushes herself at the St. Cecilia meet. Woods was almost always the fastest runner on the varsity team.

Left: Focusing on the course, **Tim Cho** runs hard to pass his man. Though he joined the team after the season started, Cho quickly picked up the cross country spirit.

Below: Embracing, **Rebecca Woods** and **Alice Kim** celebrate the completion of the race. As the only returning runners, Woods and Kim set the standard for team work and encouragement.



Meets:

Boone Central

Centura

Central City

Boone Central

Hastings St. Cecilia

Branched Oak (District)

Setting Goals

Intensity. Focus. Unstoppable drive. This year, the Nebraska Christian Lady Eagles showed their true colors. The season began with great momentum as the Lady Eagles won eight of their first ten matches. "In past years, we haven't always been as successful, but now we're all starting to see that our hard work is definitely paying off," **Elizabeth Griess** said. The six seniors on the team were presented with a lot of opportunities to show great leadership and encouragement during practices and games. The team played in ten more games than they had the previous year, and many of those games were weekend tournaments. Senior setter **Karrah Miller** (pictured above) stated, "It was definitely a good thing to have so many games this year. It was tiring at times, but overall it helped us improve." Miller ended the season by making the all-conference second team. Starting two sophomores this year also really benefited the team in preparing for next season. Sophomore **Alycea Unruh** said, when asked about playing varsity, "Getting to play this year on varsity was so exciting. The girls had so much intensity on the court, and [we] grew not only as individuals but also as a team. God blessed us in many ways this season."

–Katie Wilkins

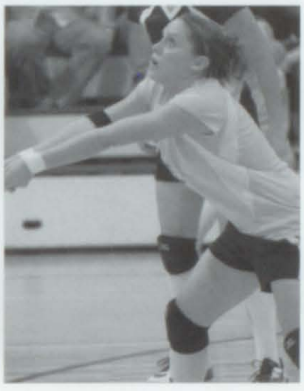
Above: Fellow teammates congratulate **Elizabeth Griess** on her kill. Griess ended the season with 444 kills, and she made the all-conference first team.

Right: Jumping, **Emily Murphy** serves the ball to the opposing Palmer Tigers. Murphy's experience contributed to the success of the Lady Eagles.

Right: Left to right, front to back: Row 1: Student Manager Rachel Miller, Student Manager Cailyn Ostrand, Amber Rainbolt, Kelsey Shepherd, Joanna Stuhmer, Katrina Troester, Student Manager Danielle Thiessen, Student Manager Katherine Welk. Row 2: Coach's Aide Kate Perry, Katie Wilkins, Anna Faeh, Jennifer Smith, Alycea Unruh, Sarah Armatys, Coach's Aide Ashley Faeh. Row 3: Emily Murphy, Danielle Richards, Elizabeth Griess, Lacy Tonniges, Karrah Miller, Audra Faeh, Head Coach Tonya Ostrand.

Left: **Coach Tonya Ostrand** preps her team for the next set. In her second year of coaching volleyball at Nebraska Christian, Ostrand led her team to an 8-2 start for the year.

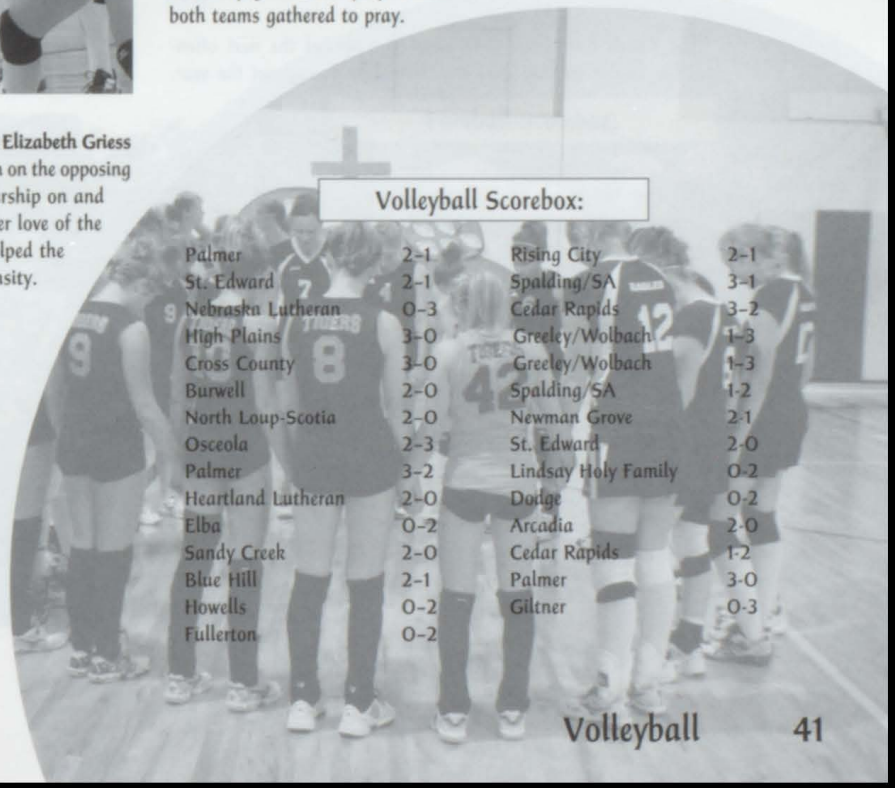
Above: **Alycea Unruh** keeps her eye on the ball as she prepares to serve. Unruh's positive attitude encouraged her teammates.



Left: **Lacy Tonniges** passes the ball up to the setter. Tonniges worked hard throughout the season, contributing much-needed digs.

Below: The Lady Eagles and Palmer Tigers hold hands and thank God for the abilities He has granted to them. After every home game and a few away games, the players from both teams gathered to pray.

Left: Swinging hard, **Elizabeth Griess** pounds the ball down on the opposing court. Griess's leadership on and off the court, and her love of the game, constantly helped the team maintain intensity.



Volleyball Scorebox:

Palmer	2-1	Rising City	2-1
St. Edward	2-1	Spalding/SA	3-1
Nebraska Lutheran	0-3	Cedar Rapids	3-2
High Plains	3-0	Greeley/Wolbach	1-3
Cross County	3-0	Greeley/Wolbach	1-3
Burwell	2-0	Spalding/SA	1-2
North Loup-Scotia	2-0	Newman Grove	2-1
Osceola	2-3	St. Edward	2-0
Palmer	3-2	Lindsay Holy Family	0-2
Heartland Lutheran	2-0	Dodge	0-2
Elba	0-2	Arcadia	2-0
Sandy Creek	2-0	Cedar Rapids	1-2
Blue Hill	2-1	Palmer	3-0
Howells	0-2	Giltner	0-3
Fullerton	0-2		

Tackling Pride

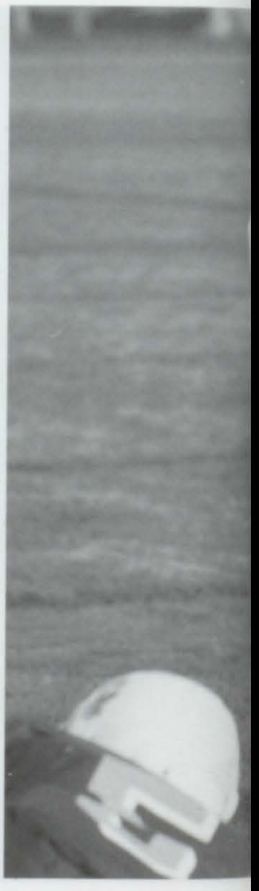
Football is a very competitive sport and promotes a prideful attitude. One only has to look as far as the professional league to clearly see the prideful and self-worshiping attitudes of the players. During the 2008 football season, Nebraska Christian Football **Head Coach Carl Ostrand** and **Assistant Coach Craig Lorenz** emphasized the importance of replacing pride with humility. Starting with conditioning, Ostrand and Lorenz challenged the players to live their lives as godly men, denying their natural, sinful desires to be prideful. Before practice began in earnest, the coaches conditioned the team's spiritual bodies with spiritual truths; one such devotion challenged the team with the question, "Who are you playing for: yourself or the Lord?" **Raymond Johnson** said, "[Coach's talks] helped me to do more for the team instead of just doing things for myself." While the season progressed with little statistical success, the Eagles, as a team, achieved a higher level of success, which transcended simple wins and losses: they became a band of brothers. **Braden Swanson** demonstrated an attitude of being humble: "When I did something great, people would praise me, but [coach's devotions] always stuck in my mind. And I would say to them that if it was not for God giving me and my fellow players these abilities, then our accomplishments would not be worth anything."

–Darren Holzinger

Top: **Jonathan Smith** eagerly waits to harass his opponent. Smith saw much varsity playing time despite being a freshman.

Above: The JV team thanks God for a good game after the contest with the Hampton Hawks. The JV players fought hard in all three of their games and nearly came away with several wins.

Right: **Head Coach Carl Ostrand** gives **Wesley Kembel** the next offensive play. The Eagles steadily improved offensively throughout the year.



Right: Left to right, front to back: Row 1: Darren Holzinger, Ben Thiessen, Braden Swanson, Wesley Kembel, Casey Rose, Zach Troester, Ray Johnson. Row 2: Assistant Coach Craig Lorenz, Isaac Elge, Scott Ritta, Caleb Urban, Luke Woods, Levi Landrigan, Seth Bailey, Head Coach Carl Ostrand. Row 3: Jacob Simmons, Andrew Swanson, James Davis, Jarrod Thiessen, Elliot Murphy, Fred Lee, Cody Smith, Student Manager Scott Smith. (Not pictured: Johnny Chang, Jae Kim, Jonathan Smith.)

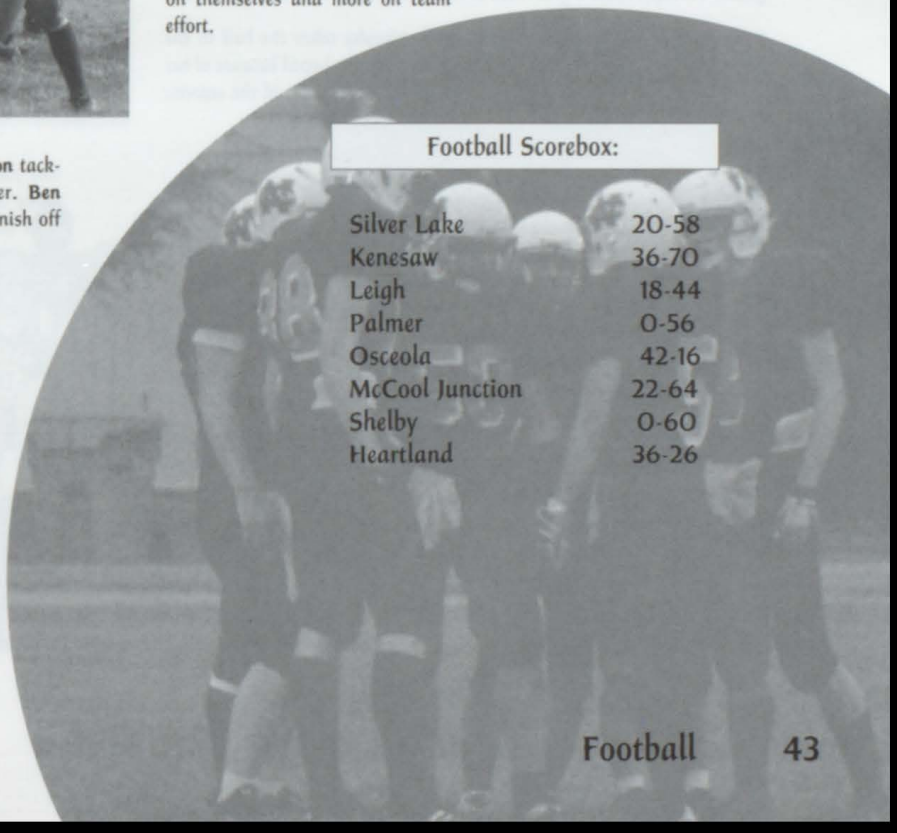
Left: **Wesley Kembel** scrambles to evade a group of Palmer defenders. Kembel's talents greatly helped the team; last year, he transferred too late and was unable to play.

Above: Shouting across the field, **Head Coach Carl Ostrand** encourages the team to defend their territory. Ostrand pushed the players to give their all on both ends of the field.

Left: **Isaac Elge** breaks down and prepares to block in Junior Varsity action. Despite being one of the smallest players on the team, Elge was a ferocious blocker.

Below: The Eagles huddle up before the next play. As the year progressed, players focused less on themselves and more on team effort.

Left: **Braden Swanson** tackles a Palmer runner. **Ben Thiessen** helped to finish off the ball carrier.



Football Scorebox:

Silver Lake	20-58
Kenesaw	36-70
Leigh	18-44
Palmer	0-56
Osceola	42-16
McCool Junction	22-64
Shelby	0-60
Heartland	36-26

Overcoming Adversity

"I give my all — all of the time. I do not give up. I do not give in. I do not give out. I am the Lord's warrior — a competitor by conviction and a disciple of determination. I am confident beyond reason because my confidence lies in Christ." This excerpt from the Competitor's Creed exemplified what the girls' basketball team intended to accomplish throughout the season. The season began well with a win against Palmer in the season opener, but in the stretch until Christmas break, the Lady Eagles struggled, losing several close games. Junior **Jennifer Smith** (pictured above) remarked, "It was awesome the way we banded together and persevered, no matter the challenge." The challenges in the 2008-2009 season were abundant, yet the team pulled through. Two unexpected retina tears pulled **Head Coach Gordon Thiessen** from the mix. Graciously, **Assistant Coach Tonya Ostrand** stepped up to lead the team. Then, senior starter **Emily Murphy** was sidelined first by a sprained ankle, then by a torn ACL, and several players had to step up to fill the gap. Every girl on the team had to work hard to accomplish the success they intended at the beginning of the season. Throughout the year, the girls became a family, traveling up to three times a week to everywhere from Polk, which was 15 miles away, to Burwell, which was over 100 miles away. Everyone showed great endurance, and throughout the season, the girls learned to persevere and be competitors for Christ.

–Katie Wilkins

Above: **Lacy Tonniges** dribbles up the court, dodging the defense. As point guard, Tonniges spent a great deal of time handling and defending the ball.

Right: Driving around her defender, **Emily Murphy** takes the ball to the hoop. Even though she played in fewer games than she hoped because of her injuries, Murphy made a huge difference in the first games of the season.

Right: Left to right, front to back: Row 1: Shinri Uemura, Lacy Tonniges, Elizabeth Griess, Emily Murphy, Danielle Richards, Anne Tran, Rebecca Woods. Row 2: Arisa Chon, Jennifer Smith, Alycea Unruh, Sarah Armatys, Amber Rainbolt, Michelle Toukan. Row 3: Student Manager Cailyn Ostrand, Alice Kim, Jasmine Guo, Katie Wilkins, Joanna Stuhmer, Student Manager Katrina Troester. (Not pictured: Janae Landrigan, Head Coach Gordon Thiessen, Assistant Coach Tonya Ostrand, Coach's Aide Frank Rodriguez, Student Manager Stephany Krieger.)

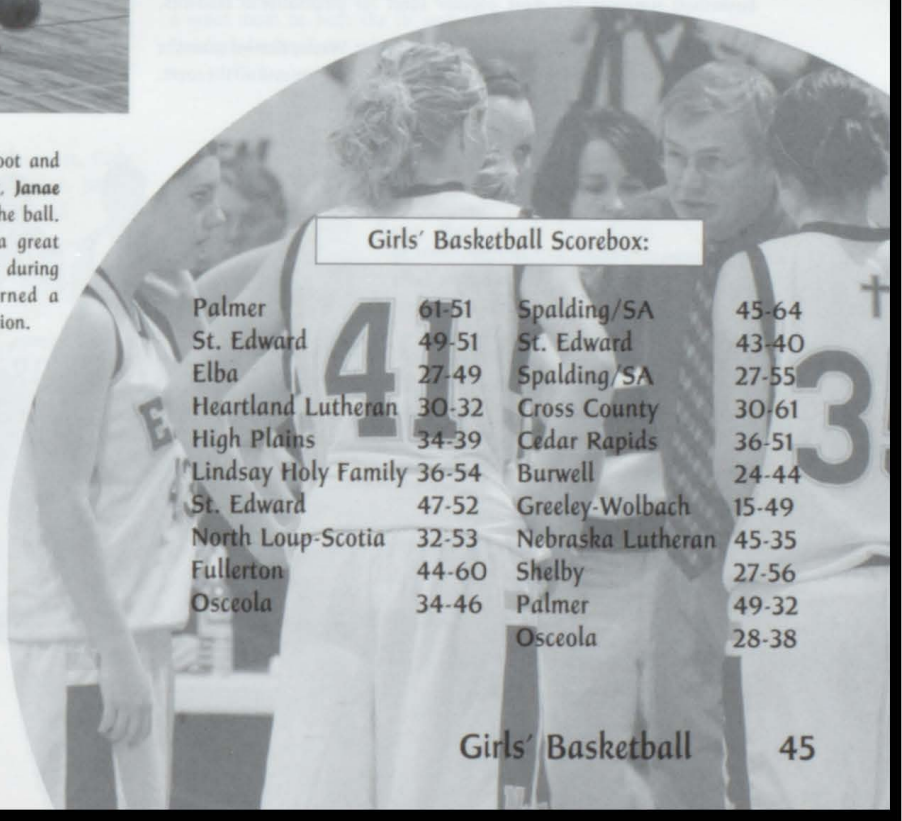
Left: **Elizabeth Griess** uses her vertical to get the ball to the point guard. As one of the tallest girls in the Goldenrod Conference, Griess rarely missed a tip.

Below: Down in her defensive stance, **Jasmine Guo** makes sure to not let the shot go up uncontested. It was Guo's first year playing basketball, and she worked hard.

Left: Catching the pass from **Danielle Richards**, **Alycea Unruh** dribbles down the court. Even though she was only a sophomore, Unruh was a key asset to the 2008-2009 Nebraska Christian basketball team.

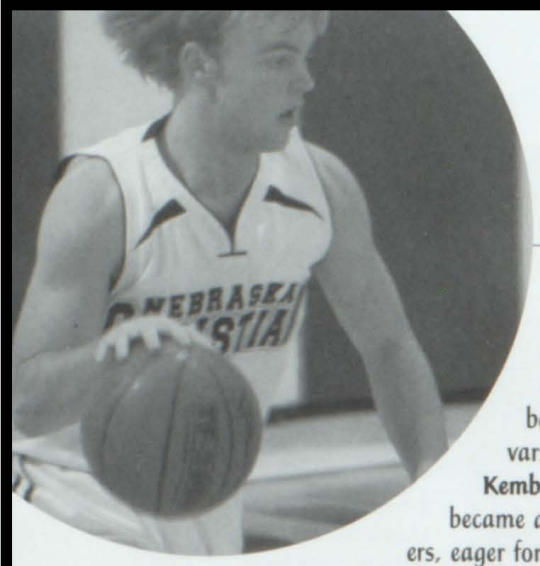
Below: During a time out, members of the girls' basketball team listen intently as **Head Coach Gordon Thiessen** gives instructions. Thiessen constantly reminded the girls to "go hard" for Christ.

Left: Planting her foot and making a quick cut, **Janae Landrigan** goes to the ball. Landrigan showed a great amount of intensity during the games and earned a starting varsity position.



Girls' Basketball Scorebox:

Palmer	61-51	Spalding/SA	45-64
St. Edward	49-51	St. Edward	43-40
Elba	27-49	Spalding/SA	27-55
Heartland Lutheran	30-32	Cross County	30-61
High Plains	34-39	Cedar Rapids	36-51
Lindsay Holy Family	36-54	Burwell	24-44
St. Edward	47-52	Greeley-Wolbach	15-49
North Loup-Scotia	32-53	Nebraska Lutheran	45-35
Fullerton	44-60	Shelby	27-56
Osceola	34-46	Palmer	49-32
		Osceola	28-38



Playing with Heart

For the 2008-2009 Nebraska Christian boys' basketball team, the year began with mixed expectations. The Eagles came off a disappointing 2007-2008 varsity season; however, all starters returned, four of whom were seniors. **Wesley Kembel**, who because of a late transfer was unable to join the varsity team last year, became an invaluable asset. Behind the seniors were green but enthusiastic young players, eager for an chance. Despite being a freshman, **Luke Woods** worked extremely hard and ended up playing varsity. Sophomore **Scott Ritta** also gained some valuable playing time with the seniors. With their blend of youthful enthusiasm, senior experience, and **Head Coach Robert Ziegler's** leadership, the Eagles sprinted out of the gate, winning several games and taking many good teams to the wire. As **Zach Troester** stated, "We were really playing hard, having fun, and coming together as a team." After a victory in the conference tournament, the team had to band together down the stretch, as they faced tougher foes than earlier in the season. Through it all, they fought hard and never said never. **Ben Thiessen** stated, "It was definitely a rebuilding year, but we kept getting better and kept playing." Most teams and schools would probably be disappointed with losing more games than they won; however, this was not the case for the Eagles. **Casey Rose** (pictured above) summed up the season by saying, "We enjoyed the wins, built on the losses, and gave the credit to God."

–Seth Bailey

Above: **David Kim**, **An Tran**, **Michael Chen**, **Wai Ng**, and (back) **West Zhang** intently watch the Junior Varsity game and encourage their teammates. Boys' basketball remained the most popular sport for international students.

Right: Vehemently attempting to shake his defender, **Wesley Kembel** takes the ball up the court. Kembel showed maturity and leadership on and off the court.

Right: Left to right, front to back: Row 1: Seth Bailey, Luke Woods, Cody Smith, Levi Landrigan, Jonathan Smith, Wai Ng. Row 2: John Zhang, Michael Chen, Scott Ritta, Willy Shih, David Kim, Fred Lee, Johnny Chang. Row 3: Elliot Murphy, An Tran, Kenneth Go, Wesley Kembel, Ben Thiessen, Zach Troester, Casey Rose, Adam Richardson. (Not pictured: West Zhang, Head Coach Robert Ziegler, Coach's Aide Gib Killion.)

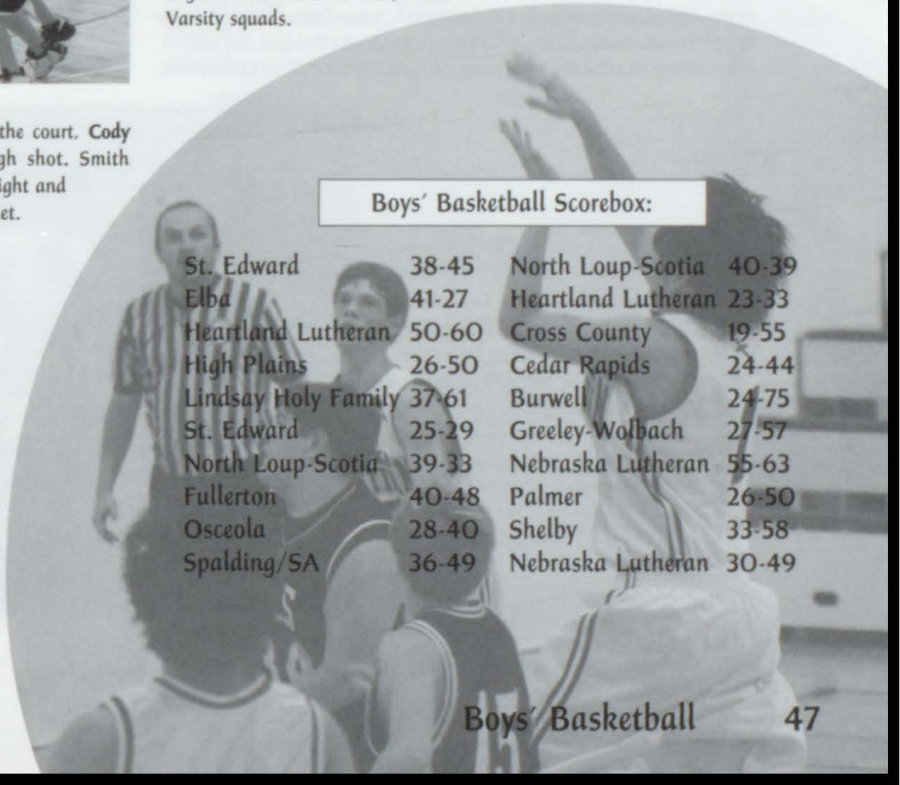
Left: Eyes fixed on the hoop, **Adam Richardson** makes a move on his Nebraska Lutheran opponent. Richardson developed into the Eagles' primary three-point shooter.

Above: Reaching skyward, **Ben Thiessen** pulls in a rebound. With Thiessen patrolling the paint, offenses had a tough time getting rebounds and inside shots.

Left: Exploding off the court, **Cody Smith** takes a tough shot. Smith enjoyed using his height and ability near the basket.

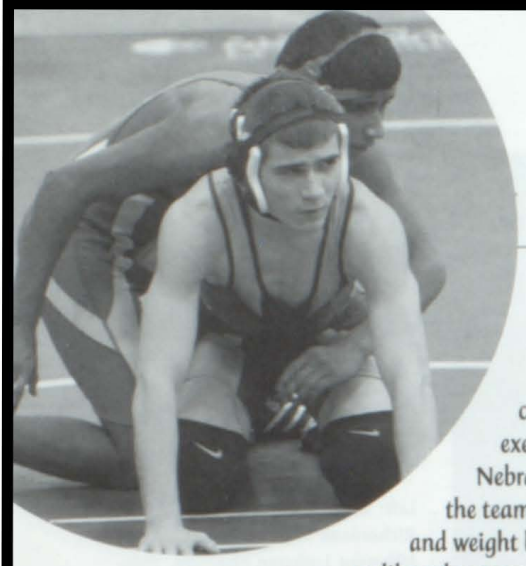
Left: **Luke Woods** passes the ball to one of his waiting teammates. Woods was always a team player, knowing when to shoot and when to pass.

Below: **Johnny Chang** shoots a running jump shot against North Loup-Scotia in Junior Varsity action. Chang's shooting skills were a great asset to both the JV and Varsity squads.



Boys' Basketball Scorebox:

St. Edward	38-45	North Loup-Scotia	40-39
Elba	41-27	Heartland Lutheran	23-33
Heartland Lutheran	50-60	Cross County	19-55
High Plains	26-50	Cedar Rapids	24-44
Lindsay Holy Family	37-61	Burwell	24-75
St. Edward	25-29	Greeley-Wolbach	27-57
North Loup-Scotia	39-33	Nebraska Lutheran	55-63
Fullerton	40-48	Palmer	26-50
Osceola	28-40	Shelby	33-58
Spalding/SA	36-49	Nebraska Lutheran	30-49

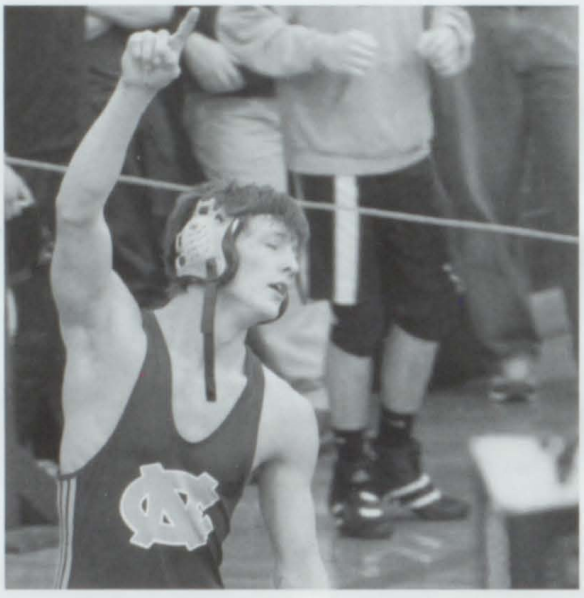


Practice Makes Leaders

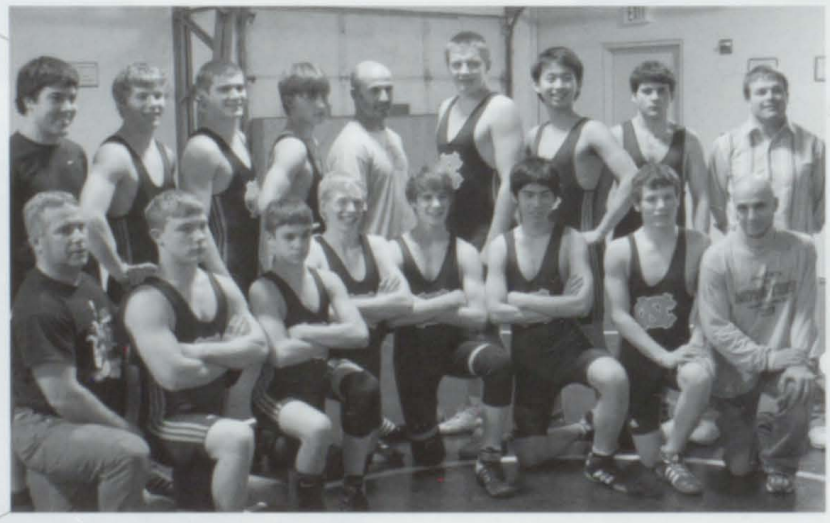
Most wrestling teams across the country train and practice hard. The practices consist of lifting weights, running, and doing push-ups and sit-ups. These training exercises help ordinary wrestlers develop into strong and skillful athletes. This year's Nebraska Christian Eagle wrestlers emulated this practicing style. Along with the coaches, the team pushed each other through thousands of push-ups and sit-ups, hundreds of sprints, and weight lifting every other day. The team even pushed **Coach Mark Perry's** van two miles. But unlike other teams, the Eagle wrestlers took this concept way beyond physical practice, conditioning their minds as well as their bodies. If one were to witness a wrestling practice, **Head Coach Terry Elge** would be heard shouting for the team to recite the definition of mental toughness: "Able to withstand great strain without tearing or breaking." After practice the team would lie in the center of the mat facing each other while one member of the team read from Proverbs. The coaches also taught their team to be biblical leaders. Another phrase the wrestlers memorized summarizes this idea: "Leaders — reject passivity, accept responsibility, and lead courageously." The coaches encouraged the team to be in the Word by challenging members to read one chapter of Proverbs each day. **Nathan Ritta** (pictured above) commented, "The best part about wrestling is that we don't just focus on physical growth, but we take a lot of time in practice to work on mental and spiritual growth." The intense physical workouts and spiritual encouragement from the coaches transformed the wrestlers into strong and skillful leaders for Christ.

–Alex Newby

Above: **Isaac Elge** grapples with his opponent in hopes of getting the pin. Though only a freshman, Elge was one of two wrestlers to qualify for the state tournament.



Right: After securing his second district match, **James Davis** points his finger to his Heavenly Father. Through his actions, Davis glorified God, not himself, in his victory. He often reminded the wrestlers to give their all for Christ alone.



Right: Left to right, front to back: Row 1: Coach's Aide Doug Swanson, Caleb Urban, Isaac Elge, Casey Beck, Alex Newby, Son Nguyen, Andrew Swanson, Coach's Aide Chris Schweitzer. Row 2: Coach's Aide Mark Perry, Braden Swanson, Nathan Ritta, James Davis, Head Coach Terry Elge, Raymond Johnson, Jae Kim, Caleb Coleman, Coach's Aide Scott Griepenstroh.

Below: **Raymond Johnson** raises the hand of Kyle Dibbern. Johnson and Dibbern became good friends in and out of wrestling and had to face each other numerous times during the 2008-2009 season. Johnson won their last match against each other, securing his state medal and effectively ending Dibbern's wrestling career in the heartbreak round. The heartbreak round determines whether or not a wrestler medals. At the end of a match, the victor's hand is raised, but Johnson wished the crowd to know that Dibbern deserved recognition just as much as he did.

Center: Trying to pin his opponent, **Alex Newby** looks up to get some helpful advice from his coaches. The coaches' shouting was at times the only thing a wrestler could hear while competing on the mat.

Left: Lifting with all of his might, **Caleb Urban** does his last set of reps with dumbbells while **Ray Johnson** spots him. Endurance, mental toughness, and strength were all essential to the sport of wrestling.

Below: At the end of a hard practice, the wrestling team comes together in prayer to give thanks to God. In this, the team remembered the One who gave them their strength.

Left: Taking hold of his opponent, **Braden Swanson** scores a takedown. Over the past four years, Swanson became a leader, helping the younger guys perfect their skills.

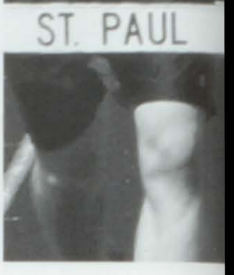
Meets:

Hastings St. Cecilia
Harvard/Clay Center
Osceola
Centura
Friend
Elgin
Cross County
Neligh-Oakdale
Greeley-Wolbach
GICC
District (Sutton)
State Tournament (Omaha)

Contributing to Success

Teamwork, by definition, is a group of individuals uniting together to accomplish a single goal. These words were put into action by the 2009 Nebraska Christian track team. Every team member had his or her own strengths, and these contributions of strengths were applied into the various events that took place throughout the track season. But like every body of individuals performing together, each person specialized in an event that best catered to his or her individual talents. **Alex Newby** stated, "Not everyone could run long distance, and not everyone could sprint. We needed each other." **Thayer Dungan** added, "Even though we all competed in different events [with different strengths], we were still a team. This could be seen as we cheered each other on as we competed." Whether individuals achieved a personal record or not, they all harvested the fruits of their efforts as a team. **Braden Swanson** (pictured above) said, "It takes a full team to win a track meet, not just one person performing well." This concept was evident at the district meet, where the girls' team placed first. While the majority of team members did not qualify for the state meet, the whole team was instrumental in the district win. "Even though I didn't make it to state, I learned to strive hard and make a goal to acheive for each meet," stated **Kelsey Shepherd**.

–Darren Holzinger



Above: **Janae Landrigan** clears the high jump bar during competition. Landrigan participated in many events throughout the season in order to add more points to her team's score.

Right: Eyes on the prize, **Michelle Toukan** sprints towards the finish line during the 100 meter dash. At the Dick O'Neill Invitational Track Meet, Toukan shaved .2 seconds off the previous school record of 12.6 seconds, set by Kristin Hattan in 1994.

Right: Left to right, front to back: Row 1: Fred Lee, Thayer Dungan, Elliot Murphy, Casey Rose, Braden Swanson, Jae Kim, Kenneth Go, Wesley Kembel. Row 2: Alex Newby, Luke Woods, Joey Sun, Trevor Lee, Levi Landrigan, Scott Ritta, Son Nguyen, John Zhang, Raymond Johnson. Row 3: Kelsey Shepherd, Yeni Kim, Karrah Miller, Alice Kim, Michelle Toukan, Joanna Stuhmer, Jessica Kim. Row 4: Sarah Armatys, Janae Landrigan, Alycea Unruh, Kendra Griepenstroh, Rebecca Woods, Student Manager Anna Faeh. (Not pictured: Darren Holzinger, Wai Ng, Lacy Tonniges, Head Coach Carl Ostrand.)

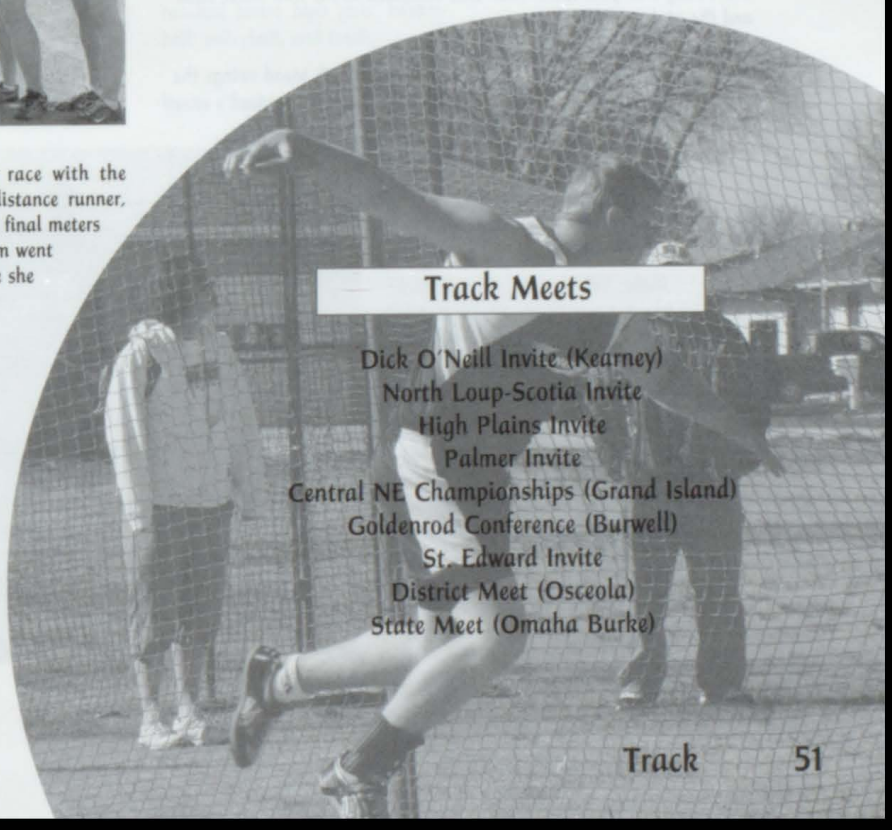
Left: **Elliot Murphy** leaves his competition in the dust as he bounds over the final hurdle in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles. Murphy qualified for the state meet in the 110 meter high hurdles and placed sixth.

Above: Moving his feet to the complicated technique of throwing the shot put, **Casey Rose** launches the ball with all his might. The Eagle throwers were reinforced with many new faces; each dramatically improved throughout the season.

Left: Left to Right: **Michelle Toukan**, **Rebecca Woods**, **Alycea Unruh**, and **Joanna Stumher** grip their baton after setting a new school record in the 400 meter relay. The team shattered the previous record of 52.7 seconds, set in 1994, with a time of 51.4 seconds.

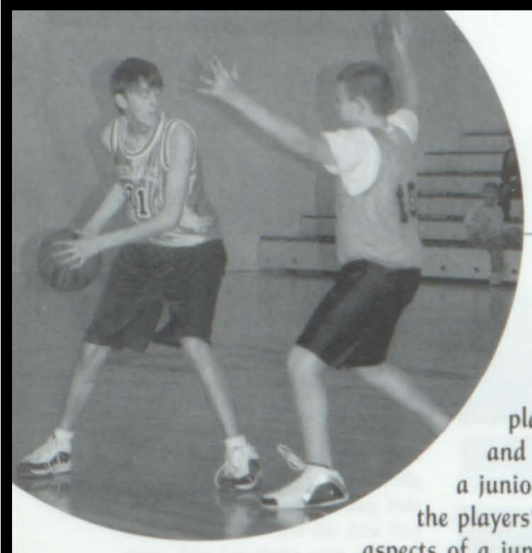
Below: Building momentum for his throw, **Darren Holzinger** spins around the discus ring. Although injured through most of the season, Holzinger placed at many meets.

Left: Finishing her race with the stamina of a true distance runner, **Yeni Kim** crosses the final meters to the finish line. Kim went out for track because she wanted to become healthier.



Track Meets

Dick O'Neill Invite (Kearney)
North Loup-Scotia Invite
High Plains Invite
Palmer Invite
Central NE Championships (Grand Island)
Goldenrod Conference (Burwell)
St. Edward Invite
District Meet (Osceola)
State Meet (Omaha Burke)



Envisioning the Future

Junior high sports — these words usually bring about thoughts of poor playing and lots of fouls; however, such thoughts do not give credit to the hard work and quality of the teams that compete. Although the average person who watched a junior high game only saw the physical battle, a mental battle was being waged in the players' minds, as well. The switch from elementary to junior high caused stress in all aspects of a junior higher's life, and this stress was especially manifested on the sports field.

Going from fun games on bright school days during recess to real games in the junior high league was a difficult adjustment. Junior high students had to work hard to keep up with the more competitive level. **Braden Moody** (pictured above) said, "Through the tough competition of junior high sports, I have become more competitive and ambitious." It took great strength and courage to face all these new challenges at once, but the junior high athletes rose to the challenges. **Danielle Thiessen** stated, "Making the switch to junior high [sports] was challenging, but we kept getting better and working hard." Keeping up with both athletics and academics required diligence and dedication. Learning to balance both prepared the junior high students for future challenges they would face in high school.

–**Seth Bailey** and **Thayer Dungan**

Above: Gripping his pole tightly, **Anthony Faeh** soars over the pole vault bar. Along with pole vault, Faeh also competed in the 100 meter dash and the triple jump.

Right: Trying to break loose from her defender, **Bekah Mead** swings the ball around in an effort to pass the ball to her teammate. Mead's unselfishness led to many baskets for the Lady Eagles.

Right: Left to right, front to back; Row 1: Scott Smith, Shyler Boutin, Anthony Faeh, Beran Fisher. Row 2: Bekah Mead, Hannah Warnock, Danielle Thiessen, Rachel McHargue, Tori Swanson, Haley Warnock, Cailyn Ostrand. Row 3: Katherine Welk, Shawna Ritta, Anna Kirby, Carrie Beck, Kimberly Deichmann, Esther Jeong. Row 4: Braden Moody, Curtis Heuermann, Derek Rose.

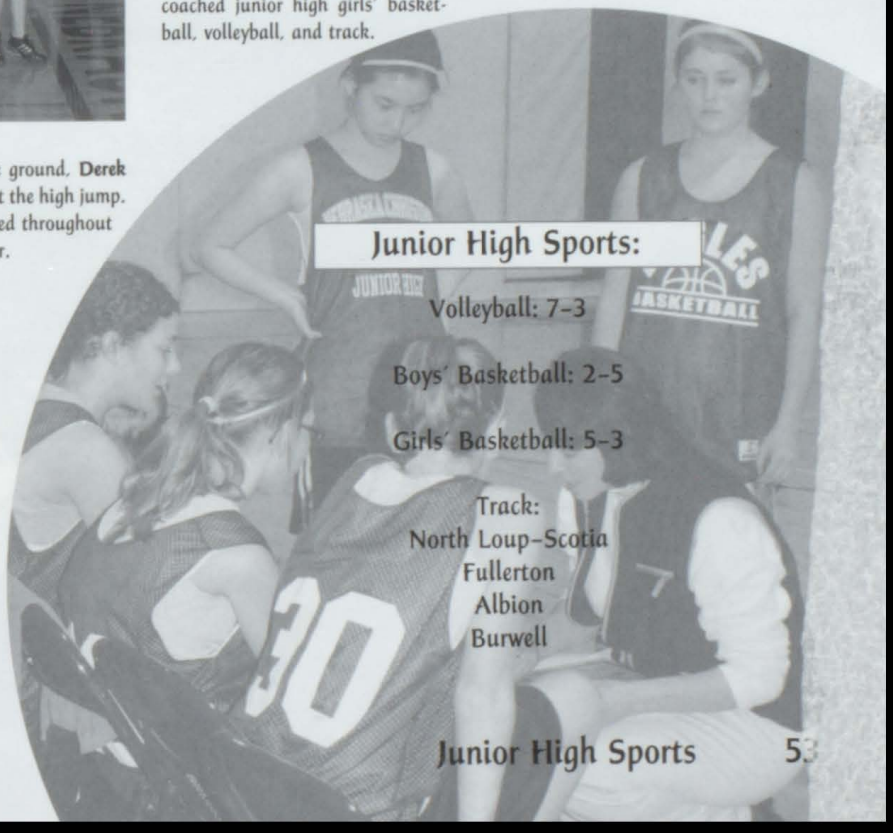
Left: Showing great technique, **Cailyn Ostrand** leaps into the sand pit. Learning proper technique was a major focus of junior high track.

Above: Getting into the right stance, **Scott Smith** prepares to take the shot. The team often practiced shooting free throws in practice so they would be prepared to shoot them in a high-pressure game situation.

Left: Falling back from defenders, **Curtis Heuermann** takes a difficult shot against Elba. Heuermann provided size, strength, and skill for the junior high boys' basketball team.

Below: **Coach Tonya Ostrand** shows the Lady Eagles their next play during their contest with Elba. Ostrand coached junior high girls' basketball, volleyball, and track.

Left: Leaping off the ground, **Derek Rose** takes his turn at the high jump. Rose steadily improved throughout the course of the year.



Junior High Sports:

Volleyball: 7-3

Boys' Basketball: 2-5

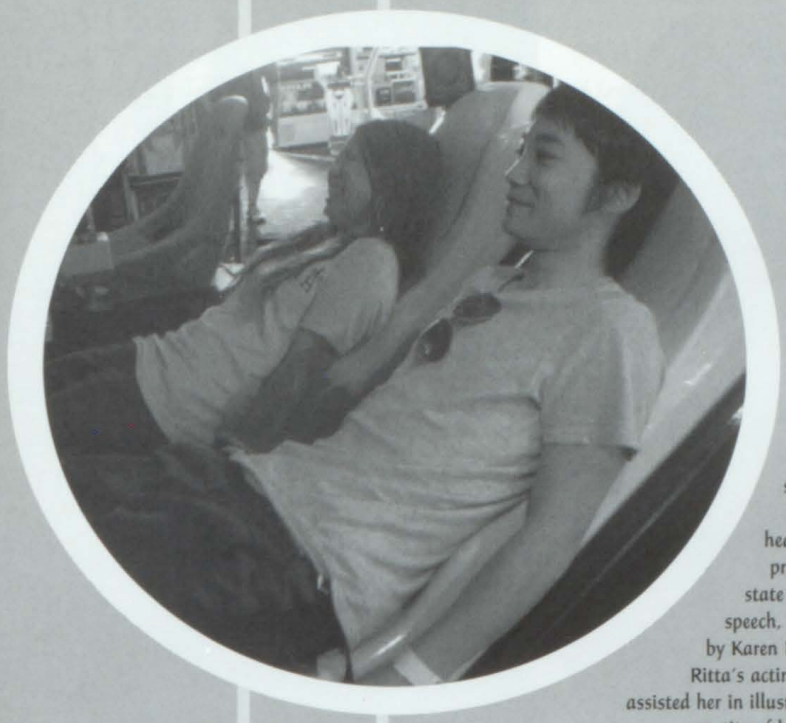
Girls' Basketball: 5-3

Track:
North Loup-Scotia
Fullerton
Albion
Burwell

Magnifying the Lord

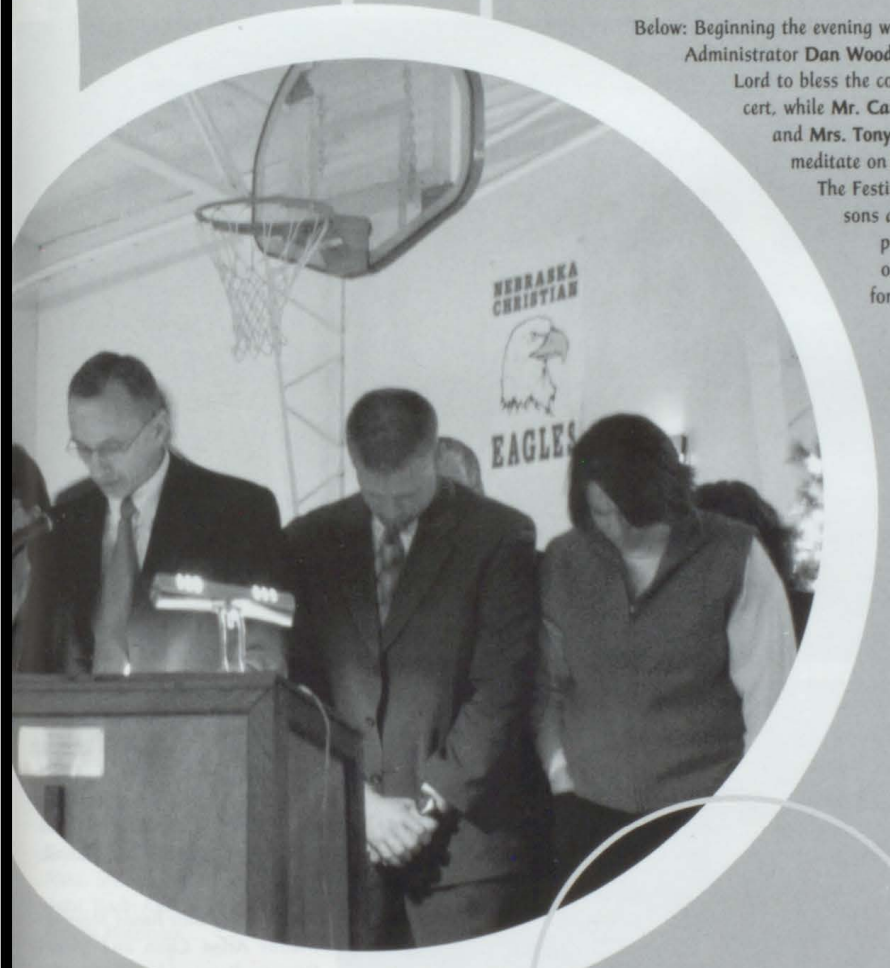
Top: With Choir Tour rapidly approaching, **Alycea Unruh** and **Kendra Griepenstroh** lift up their voices in song. The choir set aside three Sundays in the spring to travel to area churches to praise God with fellow believers.

Center: Joy and love for her Savior shining on her face, **Jessica Kim** glances over at **Mr. Mark Perry** to show she is ready to be baptized. **Pastor John Prettyman** of Community Bible Church baptized seven NC students in a special service at the Fitness Center.



Top right: Cradling an imaginary infant, **Stephanie Ritta** softens her listener's hearts as she preforms her state qualifying speech, "Summer" by Karen Kingsbury. Ritta's acting abilities assisted her in illustrating the sanctity of human life.

Above: Enthralled by the roller coaster simulation, **Shinri Uemera** and **Cas Luong** kill time on the senior trip by venturing on the "pretend" ride. Luong felt like the experience was nothing like the real thing.



Below: Beginning the evening with prayer, Administrator **Dan Woods** asks the Lord to bless the coming concert, while **Mr. Carl Ostrand** and **Mrs. Tonya Ostrand** meditate on his words. The Festival of Lessons and Carols provided an opportunity for Nebraska Christian students and staff to share the true meaning of Christmas with those in attendance.

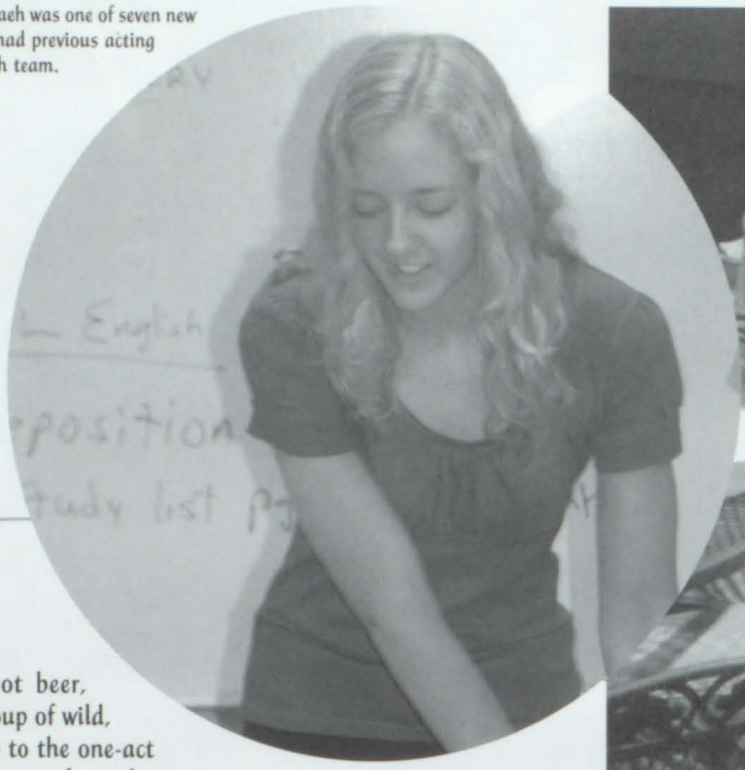
"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together." -Psalm 34:3

Nebraska Christian students learned to exalt the Lord through their activities, which is the ultimate goal of NC's activities program. Nathan Ritta said, "In band, Mr. Flynn always made sure that we played with the intent to glorify and honor God through our music." From special events to music contest to the senior trip, students saw God in his majesty and glorified Him with their efforts.

This year, students were able to make God the focus of their activities, and glorifying Him became more important than winning medals. Audra Faeh shared her thankfulness for the opportunity to magnify God in school activities: "I'm really glad I had the chance to participate in speech and drama at a Christian school where I was encouraged to share my faith with others."

-Stephanie Ritta
and **Shannon Rodehorst**

Right: Working on last minute perfections in drama class, **Audra Faeh** polishes her character. Faeh was one of seven new actors on the drama team, but she had previous acting experience as a member of the speech team.



Finding the Way

A couple bottles of root beer, wooden platforms, and a group of wild, partying teenagers added up to the one-act play this year's drama team performed. Seven guys and six girls embarked on four scenes, beginning with a discussion in a high school hallway about the existence of God and ending in front of the judgement of His wrath.

"Drama was a fun-filled time, but the best part was having the opportunity to share the gospel," stated **Kris Hoehn**. The play answered the question: "What happens when a person dies?" Discussing her new-found faith with her long-time friends proved to be frustrating for new convert Andrea when all they did was mock her every word. "It was really interesting to be someone who mocked Christianity, kinda like being turned inside out," said **Jessica Bailey**. Andrea's friends were caught up in the world, spending their time drinking, partying, and living for themselves. However, all the fun and games crashed in their faces when one night of partying led to an early death, with the killer being a drunk driver.

Nebraska Christian's goal was not to win a huge trophy, but to win souls to Christ. While only God can change people's hearts, the team members did their part by proclaiming the truth to their audiences.

–**Kiel Hansen**

Above: Playing the convicted sinner Andrea, **Rebecca Woods** shares her concerns with her friend Mark, played by **Shannon Rodehorst**. The drama students enjoyed sharing the gospel through their play.

Above: Practicing for the upcoming one-act competition, **Jessica Bailey** and Darren Holzinger act out a car crash. The play, titled "Crossroads," was written by drama teacher **Mrs. Gwen Prettyman**.

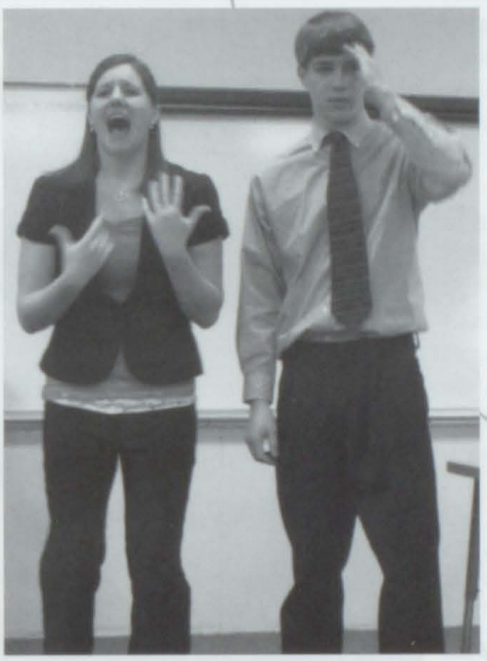
Above: Front to back, left to right: Row 1: An Tran, Anne Tran, Johnny Chang, Arisa Chon, Rebecca Woods, Yeni Kim. Row 2: Darren Holzinger, Jessica Bailey, Shannon Rodehorst, Kris Hoehn. Row 3: Audra Faeh, Kiel Hansen, Ray Johnson. (Not pictured: Shinri Uemura.)

Left: Putting their heads together, friends **Arisa Chon** and **Shinri Uemura** discuss what tasty treat to sample next. The drama class celebrated their hard work with a white elephant party, which included treats like popcorn and chocolate.

Proclaiming Truth

Below: Front to back, left to right: Row 1: Stephanie Ritta, Rebecca Woods, Jessica Bailey, Head Coach Becky Ritta, Sable Homolka, Abbie Krug, Janelle Bailey, Assistant Coach Ruth Ferris, Ashley Kenny. Row 2: Rebekah Poeffel, Levi Landrigan, Shannon Rodehorst, Janae Landrigan, Darren Holzinger, Kiel Hansen, Audra Faeh, Cheri Garwood, Danielle Richards. (Not pictured: Kris Hoehn, Kelsey Shepherd.)

Below Far Right: Performing their duet "Knight Dreams," **Janae Landrigan** and **Levi Landrigan** capture the audience's attention. The sibling duo ended the season by placing fifth at the state meet.



Speech is not for the faint of heart.

Many students who do not participate in speech believe that speech is somehow less intense than sports. However, as any speecher can attest, speech team members face their fair share of challenges and heart-stopping moments. Simply gathering the strength to drag themselves out of bed at five a.m. seven Saturdays in a row in the dead of winter required great commitment and perseverance. In the words of third-year team member **Kiel Hansen**, "Speech wouldn't be so bad if we didn't have to get up so early." Even if this particular obstacle was removed from competitive speech, another major hurdle would stand in the way — the fear of public speaking.

While some team members actually enjoyed placing themselves in the center of attention, others joined the team in an effort to conquer their fear of public speaking. **Kelsey Shepherd** went out for speech for precisely that reason: "I did really bad on my speech in English [last year], so I wanted to get better at it."

So why did they do it? Why did they drag themselves out of bed only to stand up in front of strangers? Because speechers were not only brave, but also compassionate. "Although nerve-wracking, speech strengthened my faith in Christ and equipped me to boldly proclaim His gospel," stated **Rebecca Woods**, who wrote a persuasive speech that clearly presented the gospel to each audience. In the end, planting the seeds of the gospel made all the challenges worth it.

-Jessica Bailey

Below: Performing in front of family and friends, **Kiel Hansen** expresses his disdain for speech in his state-qualifying entertainment speech, "A Day at a Speech Meet." Hansen wrote his speech, based on personal experience, at the end of the regular speech season and only competed with it three times prior to the state meet.

Above: Thoroughly enjoying playing her ditzy character, Berdetta, **Abbie Krug** performs her OID during speech showcase night. The "Play A Little Play" OID did well throughout the season, placing first four times and fourth at the state meet.

Right: *State Speech Qualifiers*, front to back, left to right: Abbie Krug, Janelle Bailey. Middle: Kiel Hansen, Stephanie Ritta, Shannon Rodehorst, Janae Landrigan. Back: Audra Faeh, Levi Landrigan, Darren Holzinger.

Right: Making a joyful noise, **Jessica Dexter**, **Abbie Krug**, and **Sable Homolka** play their flutes together. Dexter was not only a talented instrumentalist, but she was also a member of the 2008 All-State Choir.

Practice Makes Perfect

Every day after lunch, the Music and Worship Room vibrated with shrieks and squeaks, booms and bells. Gradually, things settled down and the students took their seats. At the beginning of each class period, band director **Mr. Mike Flynn** warmed the class up with some scales and then pulled out the music contest pieces. Of one of the pieces, Flynn said, "We tried to play this [grade four, "Toccata for Band"] four years ago, and it wasn't even possible. I think the band has progressed, definitely."

For the first time in many years, band met each school day instead of every other day. The extra practice was what enabled the band to tackle harder pieces this year. **Caleb Urban** said, "It's hard but it's rewarding." However, the beauty in band did not come from the individual effort, but from the sound created as the students worked in unison. **Rebekah Poeffel** commented, "Band is pretty much amazing. I love how it is a team effort."

–Stephanie Ritta

Above: Utilizing his skills in music, **Nathan Ritta** plays his trumpet. Ritta received the honor of participating in the All-State Band this year.

Below: **Rebekah Poeffel** and **Stephanie Ritta** vigorously play their clarinets. Poeffel and Ritta have both been playing the clarinet for eight years and have played together in band for the past two years.

Below Right: Adding a little jazz to the band, **Caleb Urban**, **Fred Lee**, **Derek Rose**, **Kelsey Shepherd**, and **Amber Rainbolt** play the drums and cymbals. Percussionists helped keep the band on beat.

Above: *Concert Band*, front to back, left to right: Row 1: Jessica Dexter, Abbie Krug, Sable Homolka, Alice Kim, Rebekah Poeffel, Stephanie Ritta, Shawna Ritta, Anna Kirby, Kimberly Deichmann. Row 2: Janae Landrigan, Scott Smith, Scott Ritta, Anthony Faeh, Levi Landrigan, Curtis Heuermann, Beran Fisher. Row 3: Shyler Boutin, Jae Kim, Amber Rainbolt, Kelsey Shepherd, Danielle Thiessen, Katherine Welk. Row 4: Caleb Urban, Fred Lee, Mr. Mike Flynn, Braden Moody, Derek Rose. (Not pictured: Bekah Mead, Nathan Ritta.)

Below: *Concert Choir*, front to back, left to right: Row 1: Jasmine Guo, Shinri Uemura, Alice Kim, Jessica Kim, Rebecca Woods, Anna Dinh, Jessica Davis, Janelle Bailey. Row 2: Stephany Krieger, Abbie Krug, Michelle Toukan, Kelsey Shepherd, Alycea Unruh, Sarah Armatys, Anna Faeh, Joanna Stuhmer, Karrah Miller, Jessica Dexter. Row 3: Amber Rainbolt, Ashley Kenny, Katrina Troester, Kendra Griepenstroh, Stephanie Ritta, Danielle Richards, Audra Faeh, Rebekah Poeffel, Elizabeth Griess, Emily Murphy. Row 4: Caleb Urban, Nathan Ritta, Luke Woods, An Tran, Cas Luong, Isaac Elge, Son Nguyen, Andrew Swanson, Braden Swanson, Scott Ritta, Levi Landrigan, Cody Lawson. Row 5: Alex Newby, Caleb Schulze, Jae Kim, Johnny Chang, James Davis, Casey Rose, Adam Richardson, Elliot Murphy, Jordan McHargue, Wesley Kembel, Chansoo Park, Kenneth Go. (Not pictured: Sable Homolka, Janae Landrigan, Lacy Tonniges.)

Singing to the Lord

Choir has often been considered another class and another credit, bringing students closer to the wonderful requirements for graduation. The choir students at Nebraska Christian, however, considered it a breath of fresh air. Not only did they get to enjoy the fresh air from a walk across campus, they also got to trade the monotonous desks for standing, and the silence of the classroom for the loud chorus of voices. Choir also provided a way for students to share a daily time of worship, making a joyful noise unto the Lord. Senior **Danielle Richards** said, "Choir is such a good time to break away from the routine of class and spend time worshipping God." Although students personally enjoyed choir, they were also given the chance to share their music with the surrounding community through choir tour. Choir students gave up several Sundays to travel to local churches and minister to others while praising the Lord. **Kelsey Shepherd** commented, "I love choir tour. I really like hanging out with friends and singing to the Lord." By the end of the year, Nebraska Christian students realized that choir was much more than just another credit.

–**Emily Murphy**

Far Left: **Rebecca Woods** holds the pages for **Janae Landrigan** while she accompanies the choir. With her talent of playing the piano, Landrigan made it easier for the singers to harmonize together.

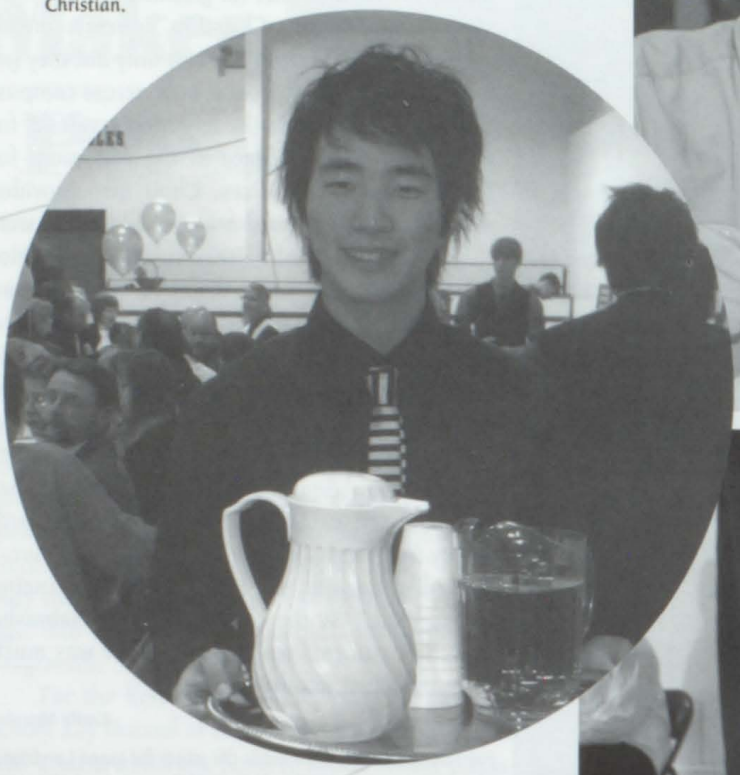
Left: Reading their sheet music, **Michelle Toukan** and **Stephany Krieger** sing together during choir. Toukan and Krieger both sang soprano in their second year as choir members.

Below: **Shinri Uemura** and **Jessica Kim** try to stop laughing and start singing during choir. Uemura and Kim enjoyed singing together after Kim transferred to NC in October.

Right: *Master's Musicians*, front to back, left to right: Row 1: Abbie Krug, Danielle Richards, Janae Landrigan, Anna Faeh, Rebecca Woods, Jessica Dexter. Row 2: Stephany Krieger, Lacy Tonniges, Stephanie Ritta, Alycea Unruh, Karrah Miller, Audra Faeh. Row 3: Nathan Ritta, James Davis, Jae Kim, Casey Rose, Wesley Kembel. Row 4: Caleb Urban, Braden Swanson, Scott Ritta, Alex Newby. Row 5: Cody Lawson, Chansoo Park, Kenneth Go.

Right: Enjoying their food, **Scott Smith** and **Zachary Dockweiler** prepare to perform at the Advance Dinner. All servers and band members ate prior to the event.

Below: **David Kim** carries a tray of beverages at the Harvest Festival. The annual Harvest Festival honored the faithful supporters of Nebraska Christian.



Above: **Stephanie Ritta** dishes up the food to be served at the auction. Auction guests were treated to a meal of rib eye steak, potatoes, shrimp, vegetables, and a variety of cheesecakes.

Above: Accessorizing their formal gowns with flippers, snorkel gear, and other beach apparel, **Elizabeth Griess** and **Cheri Garwood** entertain the live auction crowd and encourage bidders to buy a vacation package to the Caribbean. Ironically, Griess's parents bought the package.

Left: **Mr. Mark Thallander** wows the audience at the Festival of Lessons and Carols while **Katherine Welk** turns pages for him. Thallander's talents were even more impressive because he only had one arm.

Left: Filling cups with ice, **Michelle Toukan** and **Caleb Urban** hurry to finish before people begin arriving at Nebraska Christian's annual auction. Despite the economic downturn, the auction earned record profits of nearly $140,000.

Below: **Gail Mao** visits with a guest at the Advance Dinner. The annual Advance Dinner gave students, parents, staff, and supporters the opportunity to celebrate God's blessings.

Above: **Mrs. Bernice Grantham** receives the Hall of Faith award from school board secretary **Ed Ritta**. This award was particularly special because Grantham and her husband were one of Nebraska Christian's founding couples.

Right: **Maestro Eric Knapp** conducts the choir at the Festival of Lessons and Carols. The choir consisted of students from Nebraska Christian, Columbus High School, and area home schools, as well as adults from the surrounding area.

Celebrating Blessings

Each year, Nebraska Christian hosts several unique events. During the 2008–2009 school year, these events held special meaning as the year was Nebraska Christian's 50th. The 50th Anniversary celebration began at Homecoming, where all alumni in attendance were honored at halftime. Another special alumni gathering was the annual Harvest Festival. Members of the class of 1960 (Nebraska Christian's first graduating class) and staff members from Nebraska Christian's first few years were special honored guests at that event.

The fourth annual Festival of Lessons and Carols took place on December 15. **Maestro Eric Dale Knapp** returned to conduct the orchestra and mass choir, which was much larger than in past years due to the addition of several dozen students from Columbus High School. World-renouned organist **Mark Thallander**, who lost an arm in an auto accident several years ago, was a featured guest. One of the highlights of the evening was a duet of "Mary Did You Know?" by guitarist **An Tran** and soprano **Susan Ritta**.

One of Nebraska Christian's largest events each year is the Dinner and Benefit Auction. In 2009, this was truly a school-wide event, as students, staff, and parents all had essential roles. Due to the decline in the economy, auction organizers **Mrs. Kathy Chase**, **Mrs. Becky Deichmann**, and **Mrs. Jody Heuermann** expected the auction to bring in less money than in the past; however, God blessed the event, and more money was raised than last year! "This blessing, despite tough economic times, tells us that God wants to bless NC and have us continue building lives for eternity," Deichmann said.

The final major event of the year was the Advance Dinner. All of Nebraska Christian's musical groups performed at the event, and **Stephanie Ritta** gave her state-qualifying serious prose, "Summer." The special events during the 2008–2009 year not only contributed to the uniqueness of Nebraska Christian but also served as a celebration of God's provision for NC over the past 50 years.

–**Bailey Davis** and **Miss Becky Ritta**

Right: Stunned by a flash of fire, **Abbie Krug** and **Thayer Dungan** watch the magician execute a trick. **Mr. Mark Vergo** flew in from Orlando, Florida, to share how God uses him to share the gospel through magic tricks.

Below: Trying hard to finish last minute details, **Shannon Rodehorst** sets up the center pieces for the tables. The tables glowed with dark cloths, colorful star confetti, and flickering candles.

Above: Fastening a boutonniere to **Hai Jie Wu**'s lapel, **Emily Murphy** concentrates on not pricking him. Since arriving in January, Wu befriended many American students, as well as other internationals.

Above: **Lacy Tonniges** completes her meal with a delicious piece of cheesecake. Juniors and seniors could choose from an assortment of homemade cheesecakes for dessert.

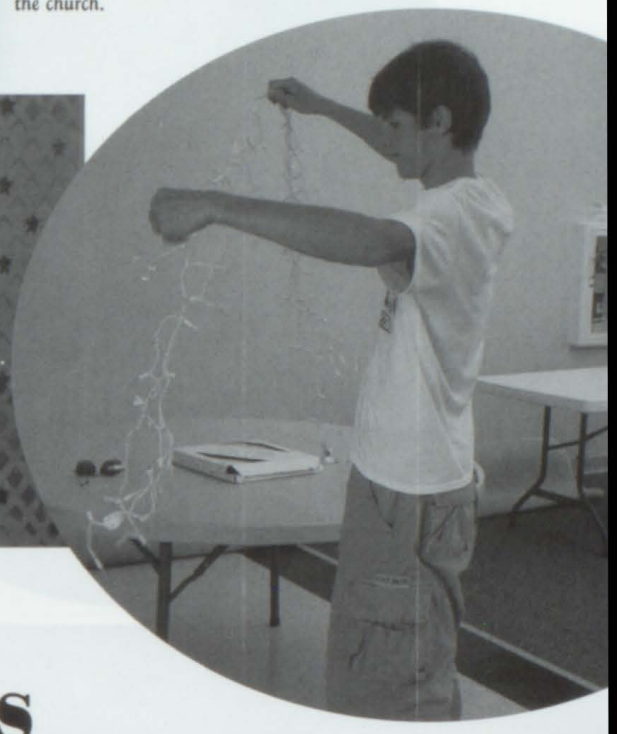
Left: **Kelsey Shepherd**, **Alex Newby**, **Kiel Hansen**, **Fred Lee**, and **Braden Swanson** top off the afterparty with a white elephant gift exchange. The hot item at the gift exchange was a black "Where's Fluffy" T-shirt, which was snatched back and forth amidst loud shouts, much backstabbing, and tons of laughter. In the end, a triumphant **Danielle Richards** won the coveted T-shirt.

Left: Flabbergasted by the evening's entertainment, **Ben Thiessen** tries to figure out how the magician preformed his marvelous illusions. Thiessen, who lives in Grand Island, almost missed the class picture earlier that evening but arrived just in time.

Below: While the clock continues to tick, **Elliot Murphy** valiantly attempts to untangle the seemingly hopelessly knotted icicle lights. In the end, Murphy's hard work paid off in a shimmering, starry effect on the walls of the church.

Above: Taking a much needed break from hanging decorations, **Jennifer Smith** wraps a black table cloth around herself like a shawl. The juniors scrubbed tables, hung lights, carried chairs, and set up arches until eleven o'clock Thursday night.

Right: After serving dinner and pouring drinks, **Alycea Unruh**, **Anna Faeh**, and **Katrina Troester** chat and sip Italian sodas. Many of the sophomores pitched in to help make the night a big success.



Consider the Heavens

When the junior class first sat down to map out a plan for this year's Junior–Senior, the students knew they had their work cut out for them. Between juggling finances, selecting a theme, planning a varied menu, and running countless errands, Junior–Senior consumed a great deal of the students' time and energy. "Probably the hardest part of planning Junior–Senior was finding time to get a group together to go pick stuff up," said **Rebekah Poeffel**. However, in the end, the juniors pulled through and hosted a wonderful evening for the seniors. The theme, "Consider the Heavens," came to life in the Heartland Evangelical Free Church with shining icicle lights, glimmering golden stars, and warm, twinkling candles. **Kris Hoehn** appreciated the juniors' efforts to create a starry atmosphere: "The decorations were very nice, and I liked them. Obviously a lot of hard work was put into them." As students waited for the meal to begin, they enjoyed dipping pineapple slices, cream puffs, and fluffy marshmallows in a chocolate fountain. Grape, peach, berry, and orange Italian sodas were also available for the students' enjoyment.

During a delicious meal of steak and vegetables, the speaker, **Mr. Mark Vergo**, moved from table to table, entertaining the guests with disappearing cards, dancing flames, and bouncing red balls. Afterward, he performed a few tricks for the whole group. **Johnny Chang** greatly enjoyed that portion of the evening, saying, "My favorite part of Junior–Senior was when Becky [Poeffel] pulled her ten dollar bill out of Mark's kiwi!" After entertaining the crowd, Vergo spoke to the group about how he has used his talents and abilities with magic tricks to honor Christ and spread the gospel. "It was a different twist on sharing the gospel and it was lots of fun," said **Kiel Hansen**.

After the dinner ended, students piled into vehicles and drove to Timberlake Ranch Camps for an afterparty. Hayrack rides, tons of food, basketball and volleyball games, roasting marshmallows, and a white elephant gift exchange topped off the evening. The seniors, who well remembered the work they put into Junior–Senior the previous year, were greatly satisfied with the evening the juniors treated them to. "The juniors did a great job, and it was a fun evening," said **Emily Murphy**.

–Jessica Bailey

Above: Taking a break from the excitement, **Jae Kim** and **Kenneth Go** watch people walk through the Six Flags amusement park. Kim and Go enjoyed the rides, as well as a chance to relax.

Below: Shopping for a great deal at Old Navy, **Lacy Tonniges** lays on a cluster of clothing. The seniors were stranded at Towne East Mall in Wichita, Kansas, for several hours waiting for a new bus driver to arrive.

Above: **Kris Hoehn** stands outside an abortion mill, pointing out to passersby what really goes on behind the cinder block wall. Some were supportive of the pro-life stand that was taken, while others honked their horns in disapproval.

Above: Proclaiming the gift of life, **Karrah Miller** and **Cheri Garwood** hope to change the minds of women entering the Dallas abortion mill. By the grace of God, one woman changed her mind.

Left: Ending dinner with a picture, **Zach Troester**, **Ben Thiessen**, **Kiel Hansen**, **Danielle Richards**, and **Elizabeth Griess** smile big for the camera. Branching out by trying new things, this group went to the "Clay Pit," an authentic Indian restaurant.

Left: **Cas Luong** relaxes on **Darren Holzinger's** scooter outside a Dallas abortion clinic. Though only 16, Luong graduated with the class of 2009.

Below: Witnessing to a Hari Krishna, **Mrs. Kimmarie Woods**, **Rebecca Woods**, **Kensy Kaelin**, and **Jessica Bailey** share truths about the one true God. Street witnessing in downtown Dallas stretched students spiritually.

Above: Showing off his strength, **Braden Swanson** lifts **Kiel Hansen** off the ground with a wrestling move called the fireman. Seniors had free time in the evenings to fellowship with each other.

Right: Laughing hysterically, **Danielle Richards** listens as **Shinri Uemura** tells her a funny joke. Richards and Uemura became close friends in Uemura's two years at Nebraska Christian and were roommates on the trip.

Stretching to New Levels

"This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live..." Deuteronomy 30:19.

This year, seniors hit the road on a trip that changed everyone in some way. As the seniors left their comfortable world at Nebraska Christian behind, God stretched each of them to a new level. Driving in the old faithful Nebraska Christian bus, 27 seniors and 6 sponsors departed for their first destination, Dr. George Tiller's abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Tiller, the leading late-term abortionist in America prior to his murder in late May, performed an estimated 60,000 abortions throughout his career. This was one of the first "stretching" points from God. Seeing the women drive through the gates and walk inside to kill their babies touched the seniors' hearts and brought the word "abortion" to a more personal level. **An Tran** said, "I feel so bad; one side is to rescue babies from death, and the other side is to try to kill babies."

In the second stretching point of the trip, the group ventured to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to visit the Oklahoma City bombing site. It was hard to fathom that one person could kill so many innocent men, women, and children. Many class members were impacted by a sign that one of the rescue crews had spray painted on a wall next to the destroyed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building: "We search for the truth; we seek justice; the courts require it, the victims cry for it, and God demands it."

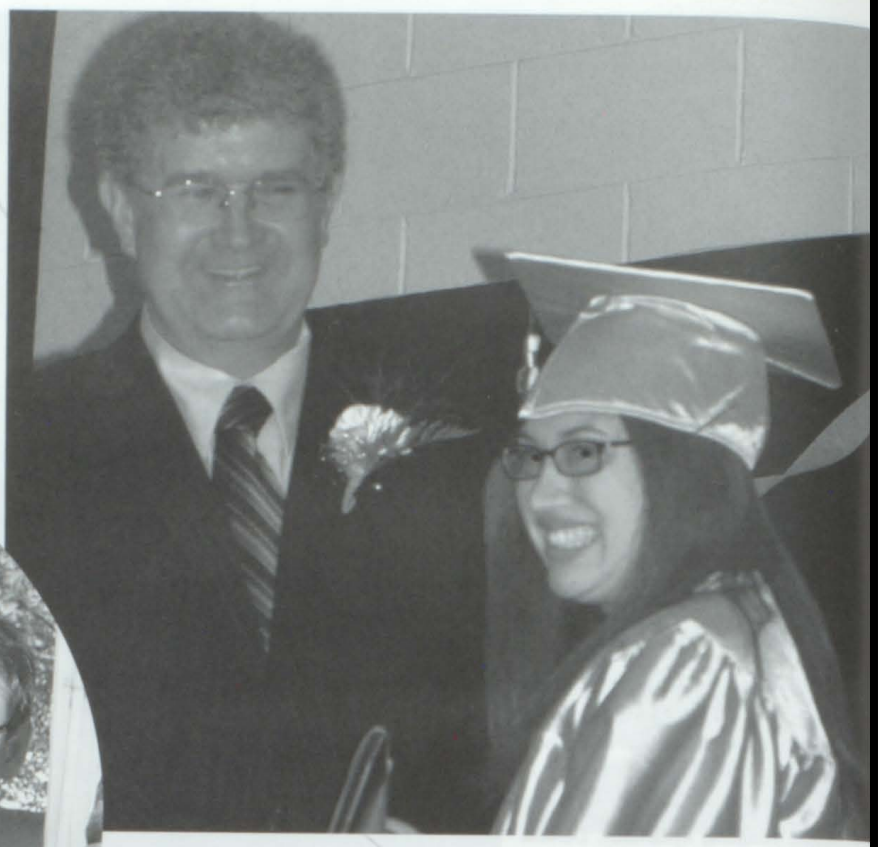
Dallas, Texas, was the last stop on the senior trip. Once again, the sanctity of life surfaced as the dominant theme. In Dallas, the group went to another abortion mill and visited the site where John F. Kennedy was shot. Then they did something unique — street preaching in downtown Dallas. Going up to strangers and asking them worldview questions was the ultimate stretching point for most seniors. Even though the seniors were out of their comfort zones, God still worked miracles and planted seeds of the gospel. Reflecting on the trip, **Elizabeth Griess** said, "God showed the sanctity of human life in many scenarios, one being a woman not going through with an abortion."

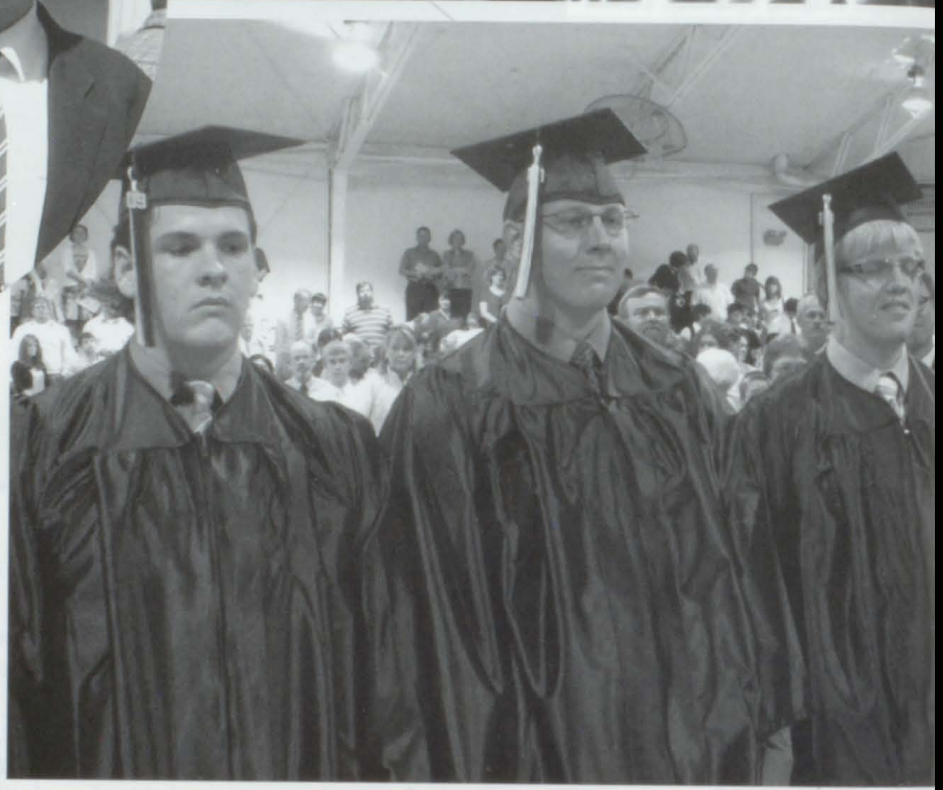
Altogether, the senior trip was a time to bond, a time to worship, and a time for God to stretch seniors for His glory.

–Kiel Hansen

Right: Receiving her long-awaited diploma, **Kensy Kaelin** shakes hands with Board Chairman **Norm Krug**. Kaelin, along with her fellow classmates, had anticipated graduation all year.

Below: Following the graduation ceremony, **Jae Kim** celebrates with his father, **Mr. Eun-Churl Kim**. Kim, who for years had dreamed of becoming a pilot, took flight lessons from **Mr. John Armatys** while at Nebraska Christian, and he was able to fly his parents from the Lincoln airport to Central City for his graduation.

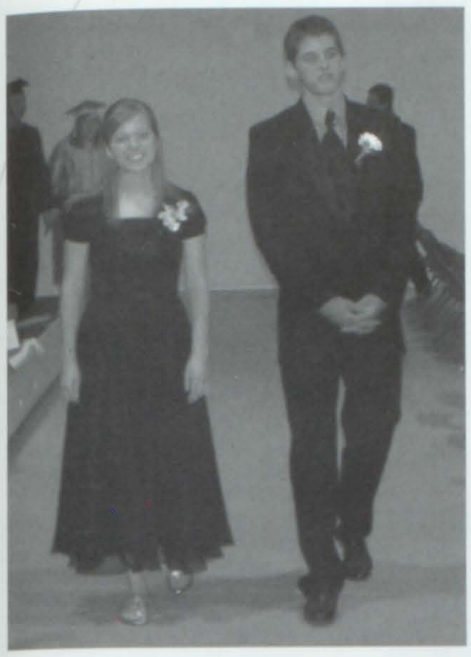




Above: Rejoicing after their graduation, **Stephanie Ritta** and **Rebecca Woods** toss their caps in the air. Ritta and Woods had the honor of speaking at their commencement service.

Above: **Kris Hoehn**, **Darren Holzinger**, and **Kiel Hansen** march down the aisle to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," played by **Miss Kaity Flynn**. Hoehn, Holzinger, and Hansen spent many hours together throughout their high school years, as they were all members of the speech and drama teams.

Left: **Cheri Garwood**, **Audra Faeh**, **Jessica Dexter**, **Kensey Kaelin** and **Caleb Coleman** smile as Administrator **Daniel Woods** congratulates them on finishing high school. Twenty-seven seniors graduated as the class of 2009.



Left: **Danielle Richards** and **Chansoo Park** celebrate their classmates' accomplishments as they wait for their diplomas. In a long-standing tradition, seniors carry their Bibles as they receive their diplomas to symbolize God's presence with them as they leave Nebraska Christian behind.

Below: After sharing his testimony, graduation speaker **Barney Sarver** encourages the seniors to have conviction, excellence and courage. Sarver, an FCA director, traveled from Texas to speak at graduation.

Above: Junior escorts **Janelle Bailey** and **Elliot Murphy** lead the seniors up the path to their seats. The male and female junior with the highest cumulative grade point average were chosen as escorts.

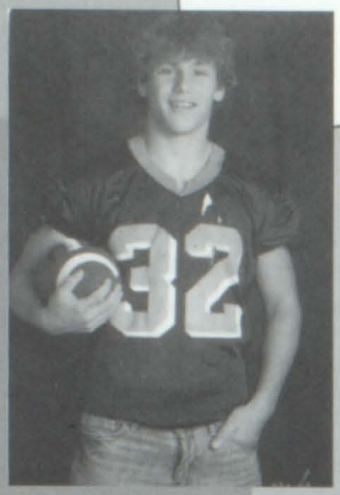
Right: **An Tran** beams with joy upon receiving his diploma. On Senior Night, Tran willed a Bible to **Thi Nguyen**, telling him to use it to "find the Truth."

Finishing Strong

As people reach milestones in their lives, they often pause to reflect on the events, friends, and family that helped them reach that point. The Nebraska Christian Class of 2009 was no different, choosing to use the momentous occasion of high school graduation to look back on the journey through the first 18 years of their lives. The seniors gathered with friends, family, and teachers one last time prior to graduation for Senior Night on May 14. From the class history to the senior wills to the closing video, the seniors reflected on their time at Nebraska Christian.

The theme of reflection was continued and built upon at the commencement service on May 16. Class speaker **Stephanie Ritta**, the only senior to attend Nebraska Christian from kindergarten through twelfth grade, looked back on her 13 years at Nebraska Christian as she relayed to the audience how she had grown spiritually while a student at Nebraska Christian. "My teachers' examples of loving selflessness reflected Christ's sacrifice and encouraged me to be selfless, as well," she said. **Rebecca Woods**, the other senior speaker, reflected on the message hammered home through the seniors' last few weeks of school — Finish Strong! Woods stated that the concept of finishing strong does not end with high school graduation; rather, Christians should seek to finish strong in life by training hard spiritually, pressing on, and looking to Jesus as the driving force behind their motivation. In his commencement address, **Mr. Barney Sarver**, an FCA director from Texas, built on Woods's theme of finishing strong. He encouraged the students, as they leave their high school days behind and look to their futures, to always stand by their convictions, strive for excellence, and be courageous.

– **Miss Becky Ritta**



Braden "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."
- Proverbs 3:5-7

We love you.
Dad, Mom, Andrew, Tori, Matthew & Trevor

Jessica, God has allowed you to reach so many of your goals through hard work and determination. We are so proud of YOU! As you look to the future, take God with you. He is such a faithful friend. He will never disappoint!

Love,
Grandma & Grandpa Dexter

Proverbs 16:1, 3 - People make plans in their minds, but only the Lord can make them come true. Depend on the Lord in whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Casey, *it has been an overflowing blessing to watch you surrender to the Lord and grow as a man of God. As you leave the secure environment of Nebraska Christian Schools and our home, take Proverbs 3:5-6 as your anchor. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

Love,
Mom & Dad

Jessica, *"They will turn aside from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths. But as for you, keep a clear head about everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." - 2 Timothy 4:4-5. In other words, keep being a "licensed fisherman" of men. May you continue to be a blessing to those around you.*

Love,
Dad & Mom,
Dillon, Warren & Ryan

Danielle, I cannot express the depth of my thankfulness to God for allowing me the opportunity to raise you as a child. You have always been a great joy to me! May God continue to bless you and watch over you as you begin your college years.

I love you, always,
Mom

2 Timothy 3:14-15 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing those from whom you learned, and that from childhood you have known the sacred scriptures, which are able to instruct you for salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus.

Jessica, determination is your style! You show your perseverance in whatever you plan to accomplish. "For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything."
- James 1:3-4

Love to you,
Grandma & Grandpa Woods

darren my son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man."
- Proverbs 3:1

Love always,
mom & dad

Karrah, *did you ever wonder why we spelled your name differently? It was because we wanted you to stand out and be different. From our vantage point, you are fulfilling our dream. Not only is it our desire, but God's, as He states in Romans 12:1: "Be not conformed to the image of the world, but be transformed." Your smile, love for others, consistency, honesty, and faithfulness are some of the fruits of you being changed into God's image. Our prayer is that you will always have a zeal for God and be willing to be extraordinary.*

We love you!
Dad, Mom, Zach, Ashley, & Rachel

Kensy, the Lord has helped you overcome so many challenges in your life from the day you were born. Now with this great accomplishment of graduating from high school, the Lord will be there to help you through the rest of your life. As always, we will be there praying and cheering for you all the way. Keep that beautiful smile and keep seeking Jesus to be the absolute best you can be!

We love you!!!
Dad, Mom, & Kameron

Psalm 19:14 – "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

Raymond, you have it in you to be anything you want to be. Let the Lord guide you — and keep your eyes on Him. We love you and are so very proud of you.

Dad, Mom, & Amanda

Psalm 32:8 – I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

Kiel, what a blessing God gave us in you. We are proud of you! Remember to keep His light shining in and through you as you move on to a new chapter in your life. God Bless!

We love you!
Mom & Dad

Matthew 5:16 – In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Loy, *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'"*
- Hebrews 13:5-6

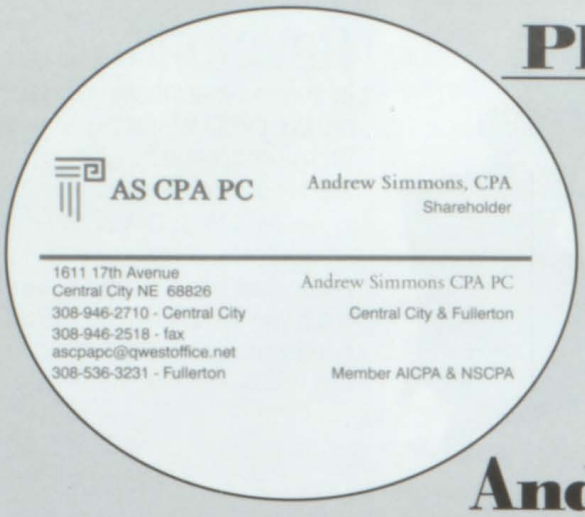
We love you!
Dad, Mom, Emily, Alli & Katie

Left: *The Reflector 2008-2009 staff*, front to back, left to right; Row 1: Kensy Kaelin, Bailey Davis, Seth Bailey. Row 2: Kiel Hansen, Cheri Garwood, Jessica Bailey, Adviser Becky Ritta, Katie Wilkins. Row 3: Shannon Rodehorst, Darren Holzinger, Thayer Dungan.

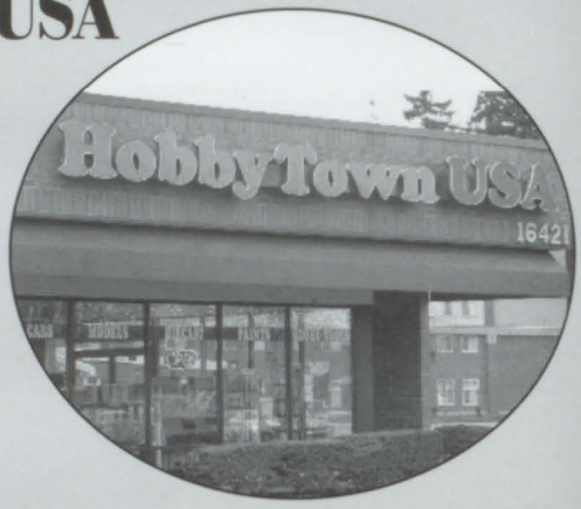
The Reflector
Volume 50
Looking Back . . . Looking Ahead
Nebraska Christian Schools
1847 Inskip Avenue
Central City, NE 68826

Colophon: The 2009 **Reflector** was published by the Walsworth Publishing Company. The Walsworth Sales Representative was Greg Adams. The Walsworth Service Representative was Mindy Sayre. Layouts were created by staff and adviser. The adviser was **Miss Becky Ritta.** Head student editor was **Cheri Garwood** and layout editor was **Shannon Rodehorst. Jessica Bailey** was the business manager. Other class members included **Kensy Kaelin, Kiel Hansen, Darren Holzinger, Thayer Dungan, Bailey Davis, Seth Bailey,** and **Katie Wilkins.** The theme was developed by the yearbook class in the fall. The cover was designed by Walsworth with the modifications made by the yearbook staff. The body was typed in **Corbin.** Headlines were **Unitedland.** Quotes were typed in **Feltpoint.**

Platinum $100+



Andrew Simmons, CPA PC
Archer Cooperative Credit Union
Covenant Doors and Millwork
Hobby Town USA



Silver $50 - 74

Hilder Implement, Inc.
Pinnacle Bank
Rodriguez Construction
Solt Funeral Home
Central City Ethanol Plant
Vollers Chiropractic Clinic

Bronze $35 - 49

Bill's Volume Sales
Brenda's Floral
Central City Scale
Countryside Flowers
D&D Building Supply
Dairy Queen
Dave's Auto
Fitness Center
Green Line Equipment
Grosshans, Inc.
Herk's Welding
Jeff Clarke, DDS
Jensen Publishing
Lone Tree Towing
Matthew J. Coon, DDS
McIlnay & Co.
Merrick Foundation
Mustard Motor Co.
Norm's U-Save Pharmacy
Palser Service
Pizza Hut
Ross Realty, Inc.
Sack Lumber
Subway
Wegner Monument

Gold $75 - 99

CC Mall
CC Vet Clinic
Central Bank
Central True Value
Cornerstone Bank

Seeking Friendships

A

Adams, Caroline 22
Armatys, Sarah 14, 40, 44, 50, 59

B

Bailey, Christina 20
Bailey, Janelle 4, 12, 13, 29, 35, 57, 59, 67, 72
Bailey, Jessica 6, 8, 11, 20, 26, 27, 35, 56, 57, 63, 65, 69, 72, 74
Bailey, Seth 16, 17, 18, 42, 46, 52, 69
Beck, Carrie 18, 19, 52
Beck, Casey 14, 15, 48
Boutin, Michele 24
Boutin, Sharina 20
Boutin, Shelisa 16, 17
Boutin, Shyler 18, 52, 58

C

Chang, Johnny 12, 13, 32, 33, 35, 42, 46, 47, 56, 59, 63, 74
Chase, Kathy 24, 61
Chen, Michael 14, 32, 46
Cho, Tim 14, 32, 36, 38, 39
Chon, Arisa 12, 32, 44, 56, 73
Coleman, Ariel 20, 23
Coleman, Caleb 6, 7, 8, 37, 48, 66
Cook, Harold 24

D

Davis, Bailey 14, 61, 69
Davis, James 14, 42, 48, 59
Davis, Jessica 16, 17, 26, 59
Deichmann, Becky 24, 61
Deichmann, Kimberly 18, 52, 58
Dexter, Jessica 1, 5, 6, 8, 32, 38, 39, 58, 59, 66, 68
Dexter, Keziah 20
Dexter, Noah 20
Dinh, Anna 12, 13, 31, 32, 59
Dockweiler, Jonathan 23
Dockweiler, Tom 15, 24
Dockweiler, Zachary 20, 60
Dungan, Thayer 12, 13, 32, 38, 50, 52, 62, 69

E

Egeland, Zachary 22
Elge, Isaac 16, 42, 43, 48, 59
Elge, Terry 48

F

Faeh, Anna 4, 14, 40, 50, 59, 63
Faeh, Anthony 18, 52, 58
Faeh, Audra 5, 6, 8, 40, 55, 56, 57, 59, 66, 72
Ferris, Ruth 24, 57
Fisher, Beran 18, 52, 58
Fisher, Susan 24
Flynn, Dee 3, 24, 29, 33
Flynn, Kaity 19, 24, 66
Flynn, Marilla 20, 21
Flynn, Mike 24, 29, 33, 58

G

Garwood, Cheri 2, 6, 8, 11, 27, 30, 31, 34, 57, 60, 64, 66, 69, 74
Glad, Gil 24
Go, Kenneth 6, 8, 32, 46, 50, 59, 64
Green, Elijah 22, 25
Green, Kalob 22, 25
Green, Micah 22
Griepenstroh, Kendra 14, 50, 54, 59, 72
Griepenstroh, Scott 48
Griess, Elizabeth 1, 6, 8, 11, 26, 28, 40, 41, 44, 45, 59, 60, 64, 65, 69, 73
Guo, Jasmine 16, 17, 32, 44, 45, 59, 72
Gustafson, Alyssa 23
Gustafson, Brayden 20
Gustafson, Kelby 22

H

Hansen, Kiel 5, 6, 8, 24, 26, 35, 56, 57, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 69, 72
Heuermann, Curtis 18, 52, 53, 58, 75
Heuermann, Jody 24, 61
Heuermann, Whitney 20
Hoehn, Kris 6, 9, 27, 56, 57, 63, 64, 66, 72
Hoff, Barb 24, 33, 72
Hoff, Larry 24, 33, 38, 72
Holzinger, Darren 6, 7, 9, 26, 27, 35, 42, 50, 51, 56, 57, 65, 66, 68, 69, 72
Homolka, Sable 14, 57, 58, 59
Hower, Alexis 20
Hower, Daurice 23, 24
Hower, Seth 22, 23

J

Jeong, Esther 18, 19, 32, 52
Johnson, Raymond 6, 9, 28, 42, 48, 49, 50, 56, 69, 72
Johnson, Scott 24

K

Kaelin, Kensy 6, 9, 11, 32, 33, 65, 66, 69, 73
Kembel, Wesley 6, 9, 26, 30, 42, 43, 46, 50, 59
Kenny, Annjolena 20
Kenny, Ashley 1, 16, 17, 27, 57, 59, 72
Kenny, Kay 23
Kenny, Stephen 23
Kenny, T.J. 20
Kenny, Todd 23
Killion, Gib 15, 24, 46, 72, 74, 75
Kim, Alice 14, 26, 32, 38, 39, 44, 50, 58, 59
Kim, David 12, 27, 32, 46, 60
Kim, Jae 1, 6, 9, 27, 28, 32, 42, 48, 50, 58, 59, 64, 66
Kim, Jessica 16, 32, 50, 54, 59
Kim, Yeni 14, 32, 50, 51, 56
Kirby, Anna 18, 52, 58
Kirby, Maddie 21
Krieger, Stephany 1, 4, 14, 26, 32, 33, 44, 59, 74
Krug, Abbie 2, 12, 30, 57, 58, 59, 62, 72, 74
Kwong, Alex 14, 29, 32

L

Landrigan, Janae 12, 44, 45, 50, 57, 58, 59
Landrigan, Levi 16, 17, 32, 33, 42, 46, 50, 57, 58, 59
Lawson, Cody 14, 15, 59
Lee, Fred 12, 32, 42, 46, 50, 58, 62
Lee, Kevin 32, 75
Lee, Trevor 14, 32, 38, 50
Lorenz, Craig 24, 33, 42
Lorenz, Jennifer 24, 33
Lovejoy, Connor 22
Lovejoy, Katy 22
Lovejoy, Michaila 21
Lovejoy, Nicholas 20
Luong, Cas 6, 9, 32, 55, 59, 65
Luong, Jess 32, 33, 73

M

Mao, Gail 32, 61, 73
McHargue, Jada 23, 28
McHargue, Jordan 15, 30, 31, 59
McHargue, Rachel 18, 52, 73
McHargue, Rubi 20
McHargue, Shelby 22
McHargue, Sidney 22
Mead, Bekah 19, 52, 58
Mead, Hannah 21
Miller, Karrah 6, 7, 9, 30, 35, 40,

50, 59, 64, 68
Miller, Rachel 19, 40
Miotke, Karen 24
Moody, Braden 18, 19, 52, 58
Mundt, Carl 22
Mundt, Marlie 22, 23
Murphy, Elliot 12, 13, 31, 42, 46, 50, 51, 59, 63, 67
Murphy, Emily 6, 10, 26, 30, 40, 44, 59, 62, 63
Myers, Nadine 24
Myers, Shane 20

N

Newby, Alex 1, 5, 13, 32, 33, 35, 38, 48, 49, 50, 59, 62, 72, 75
Ng, Wai 16, 32, 36, 38, 46, 50
Nguyen, Son 15, 32, 38, 48, 50, 59
Nguyen, Thi 15, 29, 32, 33, 72

O

Ortiz, Marie 23
Ortiz, Miklo 22
Ostrand, Cailyn 3, 18, 19, 34, 40, 44, 52, 53, 73
Ostrand, Carl 24, 42, 43, 50, 55
Ostrand, Carsyn 23
Ostrand, Cassidy 21
Ostrand, Claire 20
Ostrand, Tonya 24, 40, 41, 44, 53, 55

P

Park, Chansoo 6, 10, 32, 59, 67
Pedersen, Marlow 24
Perdew, Drew 22
Poeffel, Rebekah 13, 27, 57, 58, 59, 63, 72, 74
Prettyman, Alyssa 21
Prettyman, Angela 22
Prettyman, Gwen 24, 56
Prettyman, Jerod 20, 21
Prettyman, John 25, 54
Prettyman, Lauren 19
Prettyman, Morgan 21
Prettyman, Olivia 23
Prettyman, Rick 25

R

Rainbolt, Amber 13, 28, 40, 44, 58, 59, 72
Richards, Danielle 6, 10, 11, 28, 30, 31, 32, 40, 44, 45, 57, 59, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 74
Richardson, Adam 13, 27, 46, 47, 59
Ritta, Becky 25, 57, 61, 67, 69, 72
Ritta, Bob 24, 25
Ritta, Brittany 21
Ritta, Hannah 21
Ritta, Marilynn 25
Ritta, Nathan 3, 5, 14, 15, 38, 48, 55, 58, 59
Ritta, Scott 15, 34, 42, 46, 50, 58, 59, 72
Ritta, Shawna 19, 52, 58
Ritta, Stephanie 6, 10, 29, 35, 37, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 66, 67, 74, 75
Ritta, Susan 25, 61
Rodehorst, Shannon 5, 12, 13, 29, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 55, 56, 57, 62, 69, 72, 74
Rose, Casey 6, 10, 26, 33, 42, 46, 50, 51, 59, 68
Rose, Derek 18, 19, 52, 53, 58
Rose, Dillon 21

S

Sack, Andrew 21
Schreiber, Denise 25
Schreiber, Larry 25, 75
Schulze, Caleb 15, 59
Shepherd, Kelsey 13, 40, 50, 57, 58, 59, 62
Shih, Willy 3, 14, 15, 32, 38, 46
Simmons, Emily 21
Simmons, Jacob 16, 42
Simmons, Sarah 20
Smith, Charissa 25
Smith, Cheryl 25
Smith, Cody 16, 42, 46, 47
Smith, Jennifer 13, 37, 40, 44, 63
Smith, Jonathan 2, 16, 31, 42, 46
Smith, Scott 18, 30, 42, 52, 53, 58, 60, 73
Starkey, Christina 21
Strobel, Stephanie 22, 23
Strong, Halle 23
Strong, Joshua 22, 34
Stuhmer, Janice 25
Stuhmer, Joanna 16, 17, 40, 44, 50, 51, 59
Sun, Joey 29, 32, 33, 50, 73
Swanson, Andrew 16, 30, 37, 42, 48, 59
Swanson, Braden 2, 3, 6, 10, 26, 30, 33, 42, 43, 48, 49, 50, 59, 62, 65, 68
Swanson, Jayden 21
Swanson, Tori 19, 52
Swartz, Jane 25

T

Thiessen, Ben 6, 10, 11, 26, 42, 43, 46, 47, 63, 64
Thiessen, Danielle 3, 19, 30, 31, 34, 40, 52, 58, 72
Thiessen, Gordon 25, 44, 45
Thiessen, Jarrod 15, 42
Tonniges, Lacy 6, 7, 10, 29, 36, 40, 41, 44, 50, 59, 62, 64, 74
Toukan, Michelle 1, 15, 44, 50, 51, 59, 61
Tran, An 6, 11, 32, 46, 56, 59, 61, 65, 67
Tran, Anne 5, 11, 32, 44, 56, 72
Troester, Katrina 15, 40, 44, 59, 63
Troester, Zach 6, 11, 26, 42, 46, 64

U

Uemura, Shinri 6, 11, 30, 32, 44, 55, 56, 59, 65
Uhler, Bill 24, 25
Uhler, Jacky 25
Unruh, Alycea 15, 26, 40, 41, 44, 45, 50, 51, 54, 59, 63, 74
Unruh, Ethan 21
Urban, Caleb 1, 13, 30, 42, 48, 49, 58, 59, 61, 74

W

Warnock, Haley 18, 52, 73
Warnock, Hannah 19, 52
Warnock, Madalyn 23
Welk, Jae 19
Welk, Katherine 19, 40, 52, 58, 60
Welk, Patty 25
Wilkins, Katie 16, 17, 32, 33, 40, 44, 69
Williams, Reagan 20, 21
Williams, Spencer 20
Woods, Daniel 25, 31, 55
Woods, Kimmarie 25, 65
Woods, Luke 16, 42, 46, 47, 50, 59, 75
Woods, Rebecca 6, 11, 30, 35, 38, 39, 44, 50, 51, 56, 57, 59, 65, 66, 67, 72, 75
Wu, Hai Jie 29, 32, 62, 73

Z

Zaruba, Bennett 20, 23
Zaruba, Tobias 22
Zaruba, Verna 25
Zhang, John 3, 15, 32, 38, 46, 50
Zhang, Kourtney 16, 17, 32, 72
Zhang, West 32, 33, 46, 73
Ziegler, Robert 25, 26, 46
Zimmer, Lane 22
Zimmer, Levi 22
Zimmer, Savannah 20, 23

New Students

Joey Sun (10)
West Zhang (10)
Jess Luong (11)
Gail Mao (11)
Hai Jie Wu (11)

Below: **Danielle Richards**, **Abbie Krug**, **Lacy Tonniges**, **Stephanie Ritta**, **Stephany Krieger**, and **Alycea Unruh** join the ensemble in singing "Stand Up for Jesus" at the National Day of Prayer. The Merrick County Ministerial Alliance hosted an assembly at the courthouse.

Looking Ahead. . .

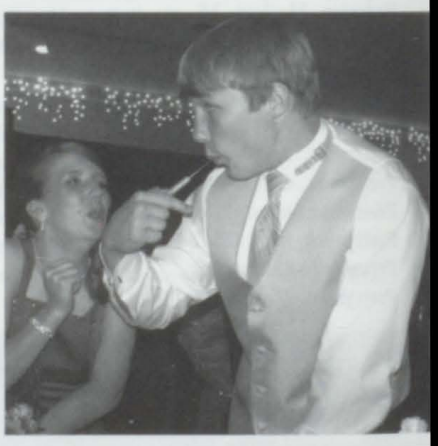
As the 2008-2009 school year neared its end, signs of spring appeared — shoots of green grass replaced melting snow, flowers blossomed, and leaves grew. Just as the color green signifies new life, the spring season brought busyness and new experiences for many. Each class had new opportunities ahead. Seniors faced overwhelming college decisions, struggled with senioritis, and planned graduation receptions, while anticipating the future God had in store for them. Juniors assumed more responsibilities in the spring, such as the planning of the Junior-Senior Banquet, which prepared them to lead as seniors the following year. Excited to lead next year, **Shannon Rodehorst** said, "One thing Junior-Senior taught me is that leadership is servanthood, and I want to instill that in the underclassmen by being an example." **Rebekah Poeffel** added, "When leading, you have to lean on God's strength, not your own." Also looking forward to next year, sophomores awaited the respect they would receive as juniors, upperclassmen. Similarly, freshman looked forward to not being the youngest among the high school student body.

In preparing for the future, students not only looked ahead with anticipation but also set future goals in the areas of academics, sports, and spiritual growth. Looking forward to next year, **Jessica Bailey** said, "I want to take a bold stand for Jesus in college, a place where Jesus in no longer exalted but hated." On a less serious note, **Johnny Chang** joked, "I want to be a superstar in basketball next year."

Even when the leaves disappear in the fall and the newness of activities wears off, students will still be striving for more, striving to reach their goals, striving to serve their Maker.

-Cheri Garwood

Right: **Mr. Gib Killion** prays over the newly baptized Christians on May 10th, 2009, asking that fellow brothers and sisters would help them as they grow in faith. Seven dorm students chose to publicly proclaim their faith in Christ in a baptism service at the end of the school year.



Above: **Caleb Urban** sticks a flaming marshmallow in his mouth, while **Abbie Krug** scrutinizes his actions. Although Urban was not the table entertainment, he did bring laughter to a few willing partakers.

Above: Killing time in the Wichita mall, **Stephanie Ritta** and **Rebecca Woods** eat mouse-shaped candy. On the senior trip, the seniors spent six hours at the mall while waiting for another driver, **Mr. Larry Schreiber**.

Above: Serving at the benefit auction, **Luke Woods**, **Alex Newby**, and **Curtis Huermann** fill water glasses with ice cubes. Many students volunteered to serve at the auction, which accrued record profits.

Above: **Kevin Lee** acknowledges those who helped him improve his English. All of the eighth grade students gave short speeches during their graduation ceremony.

Walsworth®